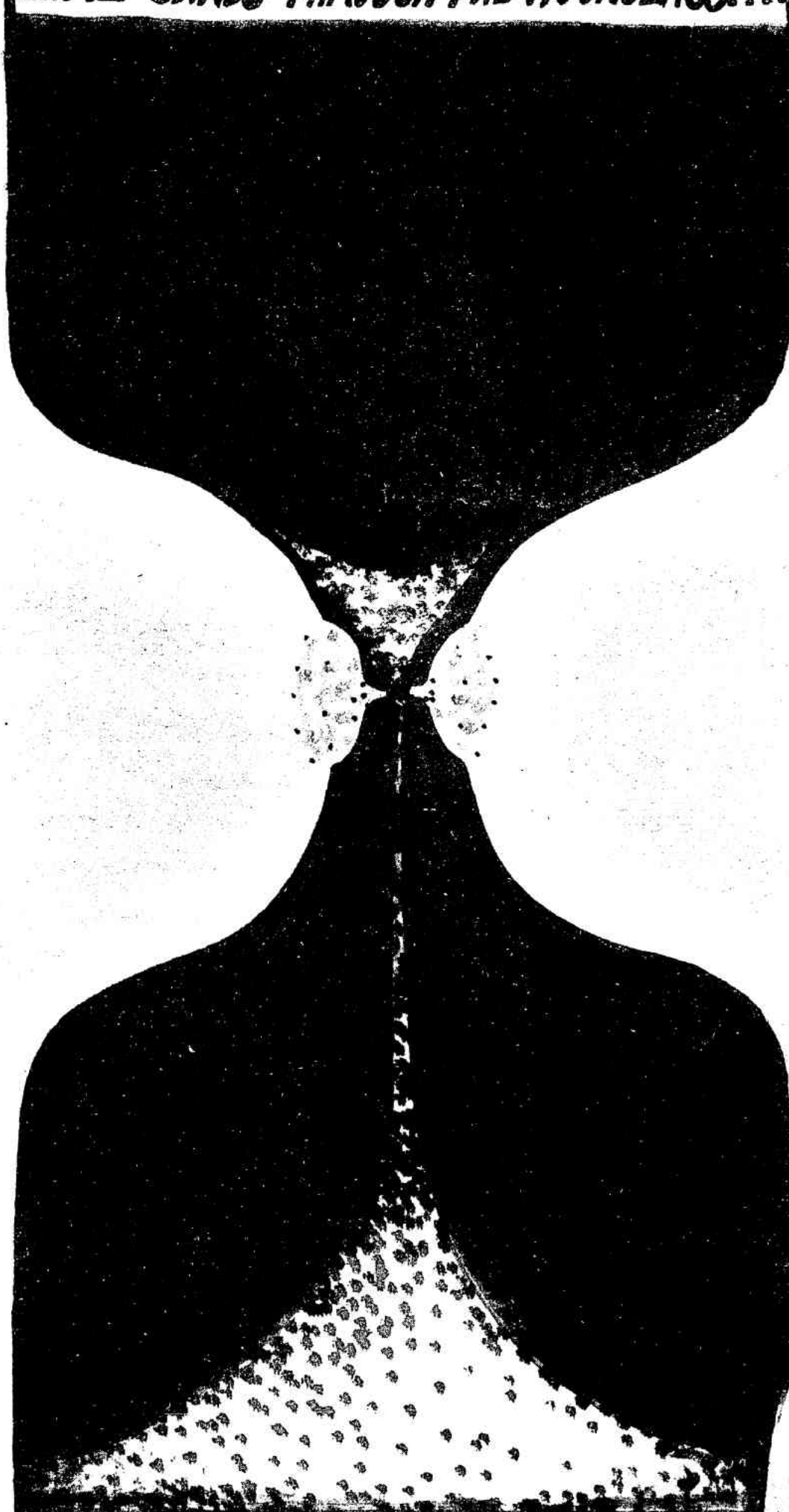


WORON

THE PAPER OF THE ANU STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

LIKE SANDS THROUGH THE HOURGLASS...

10th JUNE 1981



.... SO GOES THE TIT DEBATE!

C. LINDSAY



WORONI

Dear Editors,

Your last issue [Vol.33 No.6, 27th May 1981] contained a lot of crap. However there was left wing crap, right wing crap, Pro and anti-abortion crap. Overall it was a reasonable platform for discussion.

Keep up both sides of the continuing crap war.

Wendy Hughes.

Dear Editors,

Your belated report on the "Santo Rebellion" (27.5.1981:15) inter alia accuses the Australian media of being pro Vanuatu. But better late than never so here are some relevant comments.

Bestowing on Prime Minister Lini the doubtful honour of being "the potential Amin of the Pacific" needs some imagination.

Neither Afghanistan nor Timor is analogous to the Santo case. Your contrivance in this regard is an unfortunate misuse of the analogy tool which should be discouraged.

Discern for me the Marxist elements in the Vanuatu government and I shall buy you lunch at University House. Incidentally, I find it amusing (if confusing) that you cite an anti-Marxist letter in support of your anti-Establishment views.

Finally, (oh my!) your report albeit pro-Stevens nevertheless epitomizes the same faults you bemoan in the other Australian reports, viz. biased, superficial and exaggerated.

I.A. Maiava,
Bruce Hall.

Editor's Note: The article in the last issue on the Santo Rebellion referred to in the above letter was written by Bill Bancroft and reprinted from *Free Market*.

???

Dear Editor,

I hope that one of your readers can help me on a matter of great importance.

Next Friday, several of my mates and I are arranging a barbecue on Black Mountain Peninsula (in honour of a bloke who's getting married on the Saturday). The other day I overheard a couple of women on the bus who were also planning a barbecue on the Peninsula on Friday! Now I know that one of these women is a radical Presbyterian, and I can only surmise that their object is to crash our party and put detergent in the beer and paint slogans on the entertainment.

Well it's a bit sad if a few lads can't sink their tinnies in quiet enjoyment, and so it's clear that what we need is a new law making it an offence to crash Brian's party next Friday. My knowledge of how you go about making laws is a bit shaky - I thought it involved elections and mandates and the good of the majority and so forth - and I realize that the notice is a bit short, what with the party being on Friday, but a bloke I was drinking with down the club last night said that it could be done if you knew the right people.

So I appeal to anyone who knows the ins and outs of getting laws through quickly to help me out.

Thanking you in anticipation,
Joe Wolfe

O-WEEK

Dear Editors,

The well known consumer organisation, Canberra Contusors, found time in the term break to survey the content of the 1981 O-Week Handbook of 56 pages. And the winners were:

	Pages	% of Handbook
Contraception	6	10
Sexism and Wimin on Campus	6	10
Sports	5½	9.82
AUS	3½	6.25
Counselling & CSSU	3	5.36
Lesbians & Homosexuals	2	3.57
Pro-Drugs	2	3.57
Nutrition & health	2	3.57

Summing up, your confused Contusor found 52.14 per cent of the O Week Handbook was pitched towards that predominant woman on campus, the stoned athletic lesbian member of AUS who is a health freak on the pill and uses counselling services. The rest of the mob rated less than 2 pages apiece. That notorious minority group, the straight, unhealthy swots, hardly rated a mention. Hopefully, the Razor Gang will next year kick the buggers out and make this a safer place for all.

Thank you for such a balanced introduction to life at the ANU. How much did they say the O-Week Handbook cost? Or didn't they.

O.I. Ink

WIMIN REBUFFED

Dear Editors,

I wish to protest at the continual publication on your part of illogical and misguided articles from the various women's groups on campus, and indeed elsewhere.

These articles seem to always originate from the same foolish young ladies, such as Donna, who continually ignore the rejections they receive from the rest of the student population. When will they realise that the vast majority of students at the ANU do not think anti-abortion measures are -
1. a program introduced to continue and further the present male domination of society,
2. a conspiracy by the world's capitalists to annihilate women.

When will they realise that the cuts in funds to women's refuges are not part of a scheme to completely destroy such institutions but are part of the general economic policies of our democratically elected Federal government.

Why do they continually insult the intelligence of readers by saying that the only hope for women is a marxist orientated one. This may be a surprise to Donna and her associates but women have been on this earth just as long as men and they have not become extinct yet.

Women have decided individually over the centuries that their place is in the homes caring for their children and menfolk, a role for which they are emotionally and biologically adapted.

All Marxist feminists should take a trip to the USSR where they would learn that a true woman's place is kinder, kirche, kuche.

D. Grieg

FEES

Dear Eds,

I would like to reply to Peter Konigen's letter in the last Woroni, regarding the fees debate.

In view of the beginning of his last paragraph, one would almost think he was satirizing the "user pays" philosophy; in view of the end of that paragraph, one is forced to admit that the poor feeble-minded fool actually means what he says.

Peter, there are indeed positive aspects to the "user pays" system. All are financial, and benefit only the actual users of an education rather than the so-called user who merely receives it. In education, a "user pays" system means that the user doesn't pay and the person doing all the work does.

Through no fault of my own, it is impossible for me to finance my own education without extreme difficulty. Am I "greedy and selfish" to want others to finance me for four years so that I may benefit myself and them for the rest of my life?

Our tertiary degrees would certainly be worth more in terms of job possibilities if fees were introduced - the employment prospects of those with money would be increased by preventing those without money entering the field. A truly lovely philosophy.

Your statement, in paragraph one of the Gospel according to Peter, regarding the "low income, heavily taxed worker" was what prompted the adjective "feeble-minded" - this worker is justified in preventing others rising above his/her level? Talk about dog eat dog! Ideally s/he should pay nothing at all, but as long as s/he is forced to, s/he should realise one thing: education of his/her children and other's children is the one thing which provides any hope of them ever getting out of a tax-bracket and into a life. Otherwise an educated elite with money and an ignorant populace without it is the only future ahead.

You have the gall to say that fees will discourage the "do-bugger-all" students. Has it ever occurred to you, has it ever crossed the vast empty space passing for your mind, that a person who is forced into semi or complete poverty (by being forced to live on government assistance alone) in order to get an education is hardly likely to do bugger all? The do-bugger-all students are those who can afford to waste money by staying at university doing bugger all.

I ask you now a question, Peter. If a "system of reasonably low interest loans and reasonably certain employment" is introduced, what happens to those fields of learning for which there can be no reasonable certainty of employment? Fields such as languages, linguistics, philosophy, fine art, history, religious studies or women's studies? Or do these things not count in your cash-book world?

There is more to a rational human existence than can be measured in terms of dollars and cents, Peter. You squirrel around in your accountant's world all you like, but keep your inky fingers off my freedom.

Yours,
Karl Auer

BRUCE ANSWERED

Dear Eds,

Bruce Lee Roger's article, "Anti-Science Christians" gave a very misleading view of Christianity, in the previous issue of 'Woroni'.

I am a Catholic Christian. I wish to make it quite plain to Bruce that the Catholic Church has nothing against the theory of evolution. Any Catholic may believe in evolution. He may believe that man's body evolved by natural processes from apelike ancestors, provided that he holds that at some stage, God intervened and created souls for certain creatures, making them human. Belief in an immortal human soul is not anti-scientific. The world's greatest neurophysiologist, Sir John Eccles, is a Catholic who believes in the existence of the soul. Of course, the human body was not created; it evolved. As a Catholic, I am so ardent a believer in evolution that I once wrote a long, 66-page letter to a creationist, telling him why his arguments were stupid. It is unfair of Bruce to accuse Christians in general of being creationists, when in fact it is only a small, unrepresentative minority of fundamentalist Christians who insist on creationism.

Bruce criticises the Catholic Church for supporting Franco's fascists and for supporting the Australian DLP. Let me state that as a practising Catholic who goes to church every week, I have never heard a priest give a political sermon. As for Franco's fascists, the fact is that the Vatican did not really support them. As Anthony Rhodes proves in his book, "The Vatican in the Age of the Dictators" the Vatican originally supported the Catholic moderate republican leader, Gil Robles. As late as 21 March, 1937, when the Spanish Civil War was raging, the Vatican newspaper "Osservatore Romano" stated that it would be misleading to view the Vatican as wholeheartedly backing Franco's fascists. In the end, the Vatican gave a reluctant preference to France only because the only alternative to him was the Communist Party, which was even worse. However, the Catholic philosopher Jacques Maritain refused to side with either the fascists or the Communists in the Spanish Civil War. As for the DLP in Australia, let me insist that at no stage has the Catholic Church prohibited Catholics from voting Labor.

Bruce sneers at Pro-life groups. I think my article on abortion in the previous issue of 'Woroni' will be a good reply to Bruce's sneer. However, I wish to make one thing clear to my readers. My argument, in that article, for the view that the foetus is human, does not mean that I hold that human life begins at conception. Rather, I hold that it begins at implantation, about one week after conception. It is only from the time of implantation onwards that the foetus' development is smooth and without sudden leaps. Hence human life begins only at implantation. Before implantation we have something which, though not part of the mother, is nevertheless not human. It is, however, destined to become human and it is wrong to interfere with the process of "humanisation" except for grave reasons. However, I think that if a woman is raped she may take a Morning-After Pill which prevents implantation and destroys the foetus before it is human. In this way, no-one is murdered and the woman is happy.

Yours truly,
Vincent Torley.

Dear Editors,

CASTRATED

PLAYBOY INTERVIEW

Malcolm Fraser

"I don't think I have the right to present myself as some sort of person worthy of making a political statement."

Bob Hawke,

"I just hope that I respect women more as equals than I tended to do when I was younger."

JACK THOMPSON

"I maintain Australia does not welcome the eccentric. It will worship the madman - it will even elect him to power."

Ron Saw

"Today a gentleman can't approach the subject of sex without first laying platitudes on the altar of Women's Lib."

Harry Butler,

"If you perform any sort of test on the human race and plot the results on a graph, you can pick the males and females."

RANALD MACDONALD,

"One felt Fairfax would have a belief in The Age, in what it stood for, in what it aimed to do, which would allow the paper to continue."

Without question the highlight of the week in the Union was the convening of a Special General Meeting to stage round two of the continuing tit'n'bum Saga: whether or not rude magazines like Playboy, Penthouse and Cleo introduced moral leprosy, desecrated the secret mysteries of womanhood, made one blind with lust, or was the main cause of acne.

The packed audience, comprised of overseas journalists, drunks, druggies and no-hopers, hummed in anticipation as Talcum Jockstrap (for it was he) clanged the bell for the Great Flesh Issue to begin.

Onto the floor stepped Mr Cross-eyed, speaking for the motion (i.e. that smutty smut be available for purchase). Elegantly foaming at the mouth he informed the audience that the magazines at stake were originally banned by a minority group.

"What ignominy" quoth the gent, "to find that 13 out of 5000 students (pause) - that's 1/5 of 1% (another pause), managed to get a motion passed denying the majority the right of freedom of choice! And," continued the labouring Liberal, "solely on the grounds that these magazines offended the sensibilities of a small clique of campus women! Why should those Mary Whitehouses deny my right to lust and drool over those oiled bodies, firm mammaries, quivering loins and" (speaker forcibly removed from floor).

The next speaker, the beautiful Sonya Triffid, stepped onto the floor to oppose all smut. "It's all been said before," quoth the lovely Sonya, "but I'll say it again. And that is if these magazines stay, then the Union Shop will become a suppository of all that is typical of public-school sexism directed against the feminist movement, ethnic minorities (i.e. blacks), the gay movement and all that is totally anti-Semitic - recalling the excesses of Nazi Germany, Rupert Murdoch, and the like. Their twisted minds . . ." and drone, whimper, drone, etc.

The debate continued with much drivelling rhetoric from both sides. Then a sudden commotion as arch sex-fan Mr Billy Bunter leapt to the floor and vehemently stated that tits'n'bums were good for the soul. During this verbal tirade he proceeded to display in living colour, a Playboy centrefold of a completely naked and bronzed goddess of lust. Just like that! Right there in front of Mary Whitehouse. What diabolical heresy! What outrageous effrontery! You can imagine the shock waves of indignation that reverberated through the group of moralists.

Before the lynching of Billy Bunter began, the vote was put and which, wowie, resulted in a tie. The illustrious chair, Talcum Jockstrap (for it was he again), suddenly realised that this was, had to be, his finest hour. Dragging himself up to his full height of 4'3", he puffed his chest and beamingly said, "I gotta de casting vote! Yeah! Dat's me! An' I vote for de Stadius Quo! Ho! Ho! You perves have lost again."

And with that, with one vote, Playboy, Penthouse and Cleo were once more struck off the ANU good reading guide.

What glee there was amongst the Radical Follies, knowing that they had won the first battle of what will surely become a protracted war of the sexes. As the audience filed out of the room, leading feminist, Sylvie Sylvakrin stalked up to Billy Bunter, and pointing at the offending Playboy centrefold, triumphantly snarled, "Now you can shove that fucking broad up your arse!" Stay tuned for the next episode folks!

PARTY JOKES

No, Miss Layton," snapped the professor, "biological balance does not consist of eating natural foods and performing unnatural acts!"

Our Unabashed Dictionary defines 40 as the age when a man starts to get thin on top and a woman starts to get thick on the bottom.

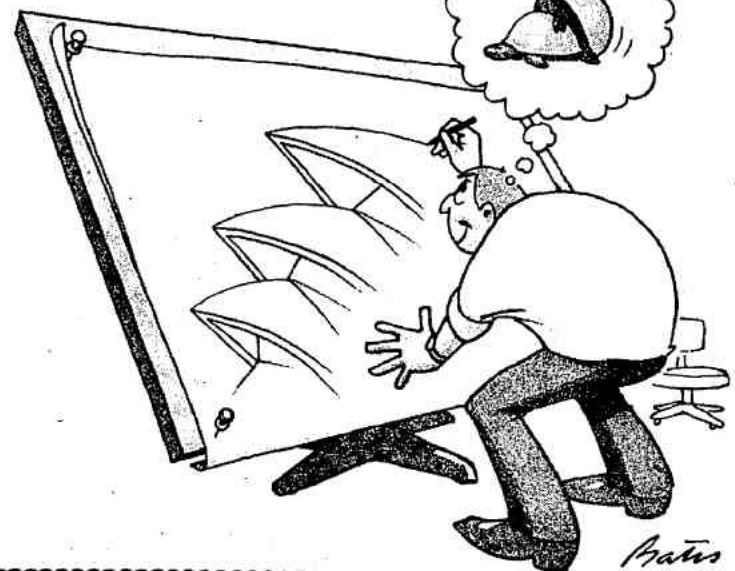
Oh," the sweet young thing cooed, "you certainly have a small organ."

"Yes," he rejoindered, "and it's not used to playing in a cathedral, either."

Our Unabashed Dictionary defines lovers' leap as the distance between single beds.

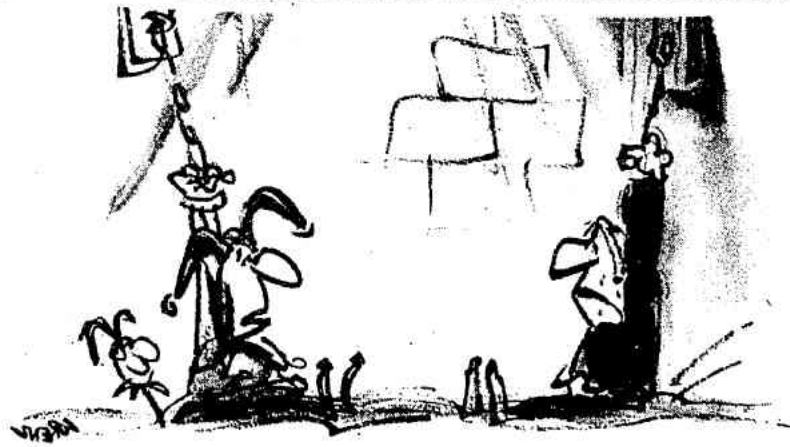


PLAYBOY



TATTOOS REMOVED PERMANENTLY

Please Enter



"The hell of it is I don't even write my own material."

GUTTER PRESS

tampons



HISTORY (AND HISTORICALS)

Although it took toxic shock syndrome — a disease that has killed 29 women since 1977 — to draw attention to the risks of tampons, their hazards are far more pervasive and more insidious than even the most shocking TSS reports would indicate.

Nancy Friedman, *New West*,
Oct. 20, 1980

With the recent deluge of shock/horror revelations about the dangers of tampon use, the question that immediately comes to mind is: how is it possible that something which millions of women have been using regularly for nearly 50 years could be harmful — surely it could not have been sold at all without thorough testing, and any serious problems would have turned up before now — surely must be safe? Well, not necessarily.

Money and Mystery

In the first place, tampons are a big money-making industry (\$300 million a year in the U.S.) They are produced in virtual secrecy, with no obligation on the part of their manufacturers to inform women about the substances they insert and leave in their bodies three to seven days a month, month after month, for 30 years or more.

Not only is information about their current contents unavailable, but tampon manufacturers are not required to inform consumers about any change in material or design. And there has never been much systematic published research about tampons.

Much is made of the fact that tampons were invented by a doctor, but there is no record in medical literature that tampons were ever tested before they were introduced in the United States. Not until 1976 did they even come under the supervision of the FDA (the US Food and Drug Administration) Bureau of medical Devices.

The written history of 'feminine hygiene products', as they are called by their purveyors, is even more scanty than the literature on menstruation. But it would seem that women have devised tampons for their own use since early antiquity. Egyptian women in the fifteenth century BC used papyrus; the Romans used wood; women in ancient Japan fashioned tampons out of paper. There are places in Asia and Africa where grasses, mosses and other plants are still being used as tampons, and it's likely that women in coastal cultures long ago discovered the unique absorbing powers of sea sponges.

Until as recently as 1942 more than a third of all American tampon users rolled their own. But by then a dramatic change had occurred. Sometime in the early 1930's, the first commercial tampon with an applicator was patented. Its maker was American physician, Dr Earle Haas, whose wife, a nurse, found menstrual pads uncomfortable on the job. By 1936 Dr Haas had sold his patents to Tampax Incorporated and a number of companies had jumped into the new market.

However, no medical studies on tampons were published until 1938, when two doctors reported on a study that simply asked 95 women to determine tampons' efficiency in absorbing menstrual fluid. In other words, the tampon — a device whose contents have never been revealed to the public, a device that is worn against the mucous lining for hours at a time — went on the market without any published research into its chemistry, mechanics, or biocompatibility.

Even after doctors began studying the effects of tampons, although a few researchers did raise doubts about safety and hygiene, an inordinate number of their reports examined issues tangential to medicine, such as risk to virginity.

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Most doctors regarded tampons as innocuous, and tampons were allowed to remain on the market as 'cosmetics' and so their packages did not have to bear consumer warnings and their contents did not have to be disclosed.

But over the years, reports of tampon associated illnesses have been appearing more frequently in the medical literature. And the frequency of these reports has increased dramatically in the last few years with the development of improved systems for compiling and correlating information such as the FDA's computer file, the Device Experience Network (DEN), and with 'advances' in tampon technology such as super-absorbent fibres, plastic inserters, and 'deodorisers' which have brought ever more hazardous substances into contact with the vaginas of menstruating women.

This great mass of distress around menstruation makes it very difficult to think clearly about it; tampon manufacturers take advantage of the fear and confusion to sell products which support the fears rather than meeting any real needs of menstruating women. Tampon inserters are one of the most obvious examples of this line of 'thinking'.

Some women find even the idea of putting anything inside their vaginas so upsetting that they are unwilling to try tampons at all. Tampon inserters are a sort of compromise which keep everything at a more comfortable distance;



Look — No Hands! Fresh! Pure! White!

In our culture (and most others) menstruation, vaginas and anything to do with sexuality are heavily loaded with misinformation, fear, and assorted other distresses. From a very early age girls hear 'don't touch yourself there, it's dirty'. Ask any woman about her first period (and remember your own) — about what sort of information she got about that sudden and mysterious bleeding, and how the important, all-knowing adults around her reacted, and you will almost inevitably hear some variation of embarrassment, fear, squeamishness, avoidance, repulsion, guilt and blame. (And while sometimes it will be a great relief for a woman to be able to tell someone else about what it was like, for another woman the pattern of shame and fear imposed upon her may hold her so strongly in its grip that she may be unable to talk about it at all.)

Most cultures have some variety of rituals, taboos, dogmas clustered around menstruation, whether it be avoiding certain foods, sex, work or other people altogether.

The message came in different ways, the conditioning holds with varying degrees of effectiveness; but we all learned it: that menstrual blood is unclean, unhealthy, and somehow just, well *bad*. And instead of being able to take pride in her health and fertility, a woman is to blame, in some mysterious and shameful way, for having periods.

using them, a woman need not actually touch the inside of her vagina or get blood on her fingers. Cardboard inserters are available in Australia, but American manufacturers went one step further and developed a device even more removed from the world of flesh and blood: the plastic inserter. It's flash, shiny, 'clean', completely un-biodegradable — and quite dangerous. There have been numerous reports (at least 27 cases recorded in the 3½ years of the DEN's computer file) of vaginal lacerations caused by the sharp points on plastic inserters. In a case described in the *Journal of Family Practice* last year, one such laceration led to a 'life-threatening haemorrhage'.

The 'Deodorant' Tampon

The so-called 'deodorant' tampon is another classic case where tampon manufacturers were able to play on the fears women have about menstruation to sell a device that is not only unnecessary but dangerous. It was introduced to the American market in 1973, and fortunately is not sold in this country. Actually it did not contain any deodorising substances — just perfume.

Like scented toilet paper and flavoured douches, the deodorant tampon was a classic example of the 'create a need and fill it' marketing philosophy. Early magazine ads brought shivers of dread, with photographs of dismayed women and legends like 'when you're wearing a tampon you don't worry about odour. But should you?' (The answer is, of

course, no; odour associated with menstruation results from the exposure of menstrual fluid to air, and this doesn't happen until the tampon is removed.

And not only is the fragrance unnecessary, but it may actually irritate the vaginal walls. A number of women in America have developed reactions to the perfume, and the company manufacturing the tampons paid the medical bills for these women.

Tampon manufacturers also play on these fears of 'uncleanliness' by encouraging the belief that their tampons are sterile with elaborate packaging and individual wrappers (although they carefully avoid claiming that their products are sterile). Yet, according to Woman Health International, an independent research group based in Washington D.C. that has been studying tampons for about a year, several U.S. tampon brands have been rejected in Japan, where government regulation of the industry is much stricter than it is in the United States. The reason: high bacterial levels. Possible

bacterial contamination of tampons is a subject we have no information about whatsoever.

Insist on Investigation

It is that same revulsion about the sight of blood, the fear that any sight or smell of blood might escape to show the world that a woman is menstruating, all done in the name of 'freedom' and 'security' that made the leakproof super-absorbent tampons so saleable.

Australia has been fortunate so far to have escaped the worst extremes of the 'feminine hygiene' promotions. Hopefully we can learn from the experiences of American women and greet any future attempts to crack the Australian market with all the suspicion and mistrust they deserve.

We also have the right to insist on government investigation and regulation of the tampon industry — and also for any other products boasting vaguely of 'technological advances' while foisting unknown, possibly untried substances on an unsuspecting public. For nearly 50 years tampon manufacturers have been promising women freedom and security. But at the same time they have been denying women an equally essential right: the right to be informed. The toxic-shock syndrome scare has demonstrated most dramatically that women can be neither 'free' nor 'secure' without that information.

Taken from 'Right to Choose',
Summer 80/81

WHITLAM IN INDONESIA

The Indonesian press got good value out of Gough Whitlam's recent visit to Jakarta in May. Indonesia's most respected daily paper, *Kompas*, gave his visit front page coverage, with the headline "Former PM Gough Whitlam: East Timor Clearly a part of Indonesia."

This is just the kind of stuff that the local media, under severe psychological pressure from the government, likes to play up.

Australia's opposition to the incorporation of East Timor into Indonesia angered the Indonesian government. Domestically, the Timor question is a non-issue now. The official position is that East Timor is a part of Indonesia: its newest province.

Documentaries on the government television station highlight the development of the province and present an image of happy and contented "Timorese brothers" leaping forward into modernity, guided by the central government.

Whitlam's comments conformed to the line that the government is pushing. He spent a few days in Jakarta on his return to Australia from Africa, and included a one-hour visit to President Suharto on 25th May.

Though Whitlam refused to disclose to the local press exactly what topics he had discussed with the President, he did give them some quotable quotes on his hopes that the East Timor issue would be dropped from the UN General Assembly agenda before the 1983 Australian elections.

Sport on the Front Pages:

Whitlam is known to have been quite close to Suharto. The Indonesian government would be pleased to have his statements on Australia's acceptance of the incorporation of East Timor broadcast widely in the local press.

However, it seems that the Indonesian government, like Malcolm Fraser some years ago, is keen to keep such political discussions in perspective. *Kompas* gave Whitlam's comments a lower priority than a major sports item on Indonesian successes in the World Cup soccer competition.

Whitlam was also slightly overshadowed by reports on the 1981 Indonesian

Film Festival, which started in Surabaya some days after his visit to Suharto.

Journalistic coup-

Indonesian sensitivity regarding the invasion and subsequent food shortages in East Timor is still evident.

As recently as the beginning of this year Peter Rodgers, a journalist and former Australian diplomat in Jakarta, was refused an extension to his journalist's work visa.

The action was clearly a punishment for Rodgers' investigative work on the food shortages in Timor, highlighted by dramatic photographs which he sneaked out of Jakarta. The photographs, which were published by the Sydney Morning Herald, had been blocked by the Indonesian government when Rodgers had tried to send them out by normal channels.

Ingeniously, he then managed to slip them to a passenger leaving Jakarta airport for Sydney, with instructions to get them to the office of the Sydney paper. This journalistic coup had the authorities fuming. Rogers' expulsion was a foregone conclusion.

Separatist groups:

There is absolutely no possibility of Indonesia ever accepting outside interference in East Timor, regardless of discussions in the UN or any other forum. Break-away provinces threaten the very basis of the Indonesia state.

The unity of the state is embodied in the national motto, "Unity in Diversity". Underlying most of the various political and ideological diversities of Indonesia, the principle of the sacrosanct unity of the state is fundamental.

Separatist groups exist in various outlying provinces. The 1981 Report on Human Rights in Indonesia, produced by the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) in Jakarta, notes that political prisoners are still being held for their involvement in various separatist organisations.

The best known are the Free Papua Organisation, active in Irian Jaya, bordering on Papua Niugini, and the Movement for a Free Aceh, which has been accused of terrorising oil installations near Aceh on Sumatra's northern tip.



Gough Whitlam



Apart from such separatist movements, which lack effective military and political force, very few sections of the Indonesian population would agree with any splitting up of the Indonesian state. Certainly anyone subjected to the jingoistic propaganda embodied in the Indonesian education system would have a difficult time accepting the idea that any split away from the state would be beneficial both for the rest of the nation and for the separating region.

Even groups within the society, which regard themselves as radical and are staunchly opposed both to the current government and the entire framework of current developmentalist economic

and political policies, generally hold that the concept of the unity of the state is paramount. Nothing must be allowed to split that unity.

Whatever Whitlam may have said in private to President Suharto, the *Kompas* headline "East Timor is Clearly A Part of Indonesia" is exactly what the Indonesians want to hear. Sometimes it is difficult not to offend a neighbour. But sometimes it is necessary.

28 May 1981.

Anonymous Australian Productions.



PRESENTED BY

2XX

ian macdougal

WITH Linda BERRY, FLUTE

AT THE A*N*U* ARTS CENTRE, 8.15 PM
SAT-SUN JUNE 13, 14. TICKETS \$5.00 +
\$2.00 FROM 2XX AND DOOR



AUS REFERENDUM

Those of you who were at University last year will no doubt recall that all the candidates in the SA elections promised that, if elected, they would support moves to hold a referendum regarding the ANUSA's continued membership of AUS. It comes as no surprise to find that at the last SA meeting (3.6.81) a motion, moved by the SA President (Jeffrey Dalton) and seconded by the AUS Secretary (Bronwen Turner), calling for such a referendum came up for consideration. What is surprising is that the motion was lost - with only the Liberals recording their dissent. Surely, given the prestige of the motion's mover and seconder within the SA one would have expected the motion to have the support of all.

WILL COUNCIL REJECT FEES?

Since the Razor Gang recommended the introduction of fees and loans both the University of New England and Adelaide University Councils have stated that they will oppose the introduction of a fees and loans system to "assist" students.

The arguments against the introduction of fees are overwhelming and have been well canvassed in this and previous editions of WORONI. Solidarity amongst the University Councils in opposition to fees will be one of the strongest weapons the universities have in the struggle against fees/loans.

We urge that the ANU Council join with students in their fight against fees/loans.

WHY MOSCOW HAS HELD BACK

In this issue an editorial from the *Egyptian Gazette* April 23, 1981, provided by the Egyptian embassy looks at Polish unrest and the Soviet revolution.

Had, the Soviets been confident that a military invasion of Poland would not get them inextricably entangled in an endless series of troubles, they would not have for a moment hesitated to embark on the move right at the onset of the Polish crisis. Mr Brezhnev's behaviour would have been a facsimile of his move against Czechoslovakia in 1968. At that time Mr Brezhnev, who was visiting Poland, directed a strong warning against what he then termed "recalcitrant elements" who were endeavouring to undermine socialist gains. And before these "elements" had had enough time to ponder the import of Mr Brezhnev's warning, Soviet tanks, rushed from every cranny and corner, were already rampaging in the streets of Prague, poised for an onslaught on any pocket of resistance. Such was Mr Brezhnev's behaviour in 1968. But then he was confident that his move would neither face much resistance on the part of the Czechs, nor trigger any substantial reaction, apart, of course, from some indignant words of condemnation voiced here and there, and a humanitarian appeal to withdraw the tanks and leave the Czechs in peace to run their own affairs.

Again, Mr Brezhnev die (sic) not for a single moment hesitate to invade Afghanistan when his calculations proved that the cost would not be too onerous. Afghanistan being an impoverished country, shattered by factional strife, and the Islamic countries being at loggerheads with one another, and too preoccupied with their own worries to pay heed to the domination of another Islamic nation, Mr Brezhnev rightly foresaw at a glance that his troops would not face much resistance.

But with Poland nowadays, the situation is radically different. In the first place there is a powerful, well-organised independent trade union, Solidarity, which could, at short notice, mobilise public support, should the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country be jeopardised. Accordingly, Mr Brezhnev could see, also at a glance, that his troops could not invade the country and return unscathed.

Secondly, the ruling party in Poland has already suffered enough disruption as a result of internal rifts aggravated and intensified by a steadily deteriorating economy. Such being the status of the party, it is inconceivable that it should ever be in a position to force submission on the Polish people, or even command their respect.

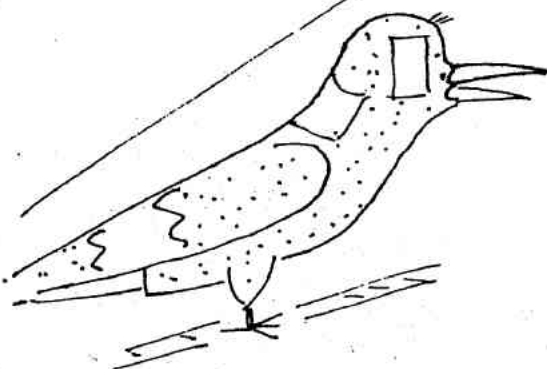
Thirdly, with the Polish economy already tattered, a Soviet invasion of that country would add more burdens to an already strained Soviet economy. The Soviets are even more grimly aware of another startling possibility, namely that countries which have been helping them economically would at once cease to do so should Soviet troops invade Poland.

Nor is Mr Brezhnev unaware of the possibility that a military move against Poland might prompt a powerful military blow from the United States and its European allies. It is true that the West failed to strike such a blow when the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia, but the situation is now different, and the West might try to atone for their indifference towards Czechoslovakia by playing a more positive role in defence of the Poles.

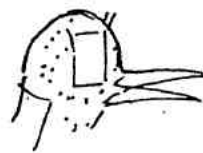
It is for these and similar considerations that Mr Brezhnev has so far remained hand-cuffed while at the same time smothering his simmering indignation at the mounting labour unrest in Poland.



beaks

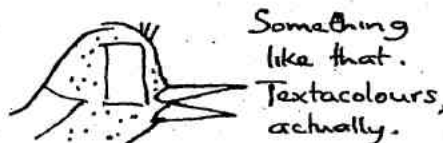


Chimp's been found a job.



Curator of Tent Camps for Parliament House lawns.

What does he do? Hire out deck chairs?



Something like that. Textacolors, actually.



And he asks people politely to move when they want to mow the grass.



The problem is, it's so profitable...



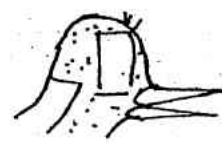
... Packer's bid for the franchise.



He wants to build a chair-lift up Parliament House steps,...



... pipe hot air to warm the lake for swimming...



... and supply mid-Victorian style geodesic domes,...



... Complete with cast-iron lacawork.



The idea is to make Australia safe for democracy...



... by pricing all but the wealthy out of demonstrations.

Decade on the brink of disaster

by Larry Anderson

In the piquant phraseology that military people and politicians love so well, the latest in-term is the "window of vulnerability". It has quite a nice ring, considering it is a euphemism for World War III.

In general terms, the "window of vulnerability" is how analysts in the west describe the period in the next 48 months when the Soviet Union, pressing ahead with its nuclear programme, will acquire the ability to launch a first-strike nuclear attack on the United States, and theoretically destroy enough of its missiles on the ground to make retaliation impossible.

It is this nuclear countdown of the 1980's that is concerning even the most optimistic military strategists. For, as the London-based Institute for Strategic Studies says, if one reads between the lines, this is likely to be a decade on the brink.

Generally, then, we would need to consider the possibility of a nuclear threat, and address the potentiality of surviving this proposed Armageddon.

At this stage, most Australians have a tendency to disregard the probability of a world nuclear holocaust. But a former Colonel in the U.S. Army, David Hackworth, seems to think otherwise.

Hackworth came to Australia in 1971 after resigning from the U.S. Army. He was a disillusioned Vietnam war hero who was in line for promotion to general and one of the most decorated officers of the Indo-Chinese War.

In a recent nationwide interview it was exposed that Hackworth was thoroughly disillusioned with Vietnam and the U.S. Army which was bent on destruction, oblivious to the futility that it was presiding over.

Hackworth's comments on the war were included in a 1968 Army document designed to find out where the U.S. had gone wrong in Vietnam. He concluded the, "U.S. had not required the government of South Vietnam to establish reforms. It remains a corrupt, inefficient, graft ridden collection of divided opportunists who have little interest in the people of the country".

In the same document Hackworth stated, "the people have no interest in the government of South Vietnam and are ever actively supporting the Viet-cong or completely indifferent to the programmes of the government. Without the active assistance of the people insurgent force cannot be defeated".

It was not without notice that Hackworth made mention of the U.S. Secretary of State, General Alexander Haig who was then a Colonel at the time. "The politest thing", said Hackworth "about Haig's Vietnam assessment is it was cautious. In fact it was a classic example of American military double talk of the 60's."

So it is with alarm and a certain degree of anger that Hackworth now watches as the super-hawks take control in the White House. Hackworth believes "President Reagan is an actor and has been playing out a part for something like 40 years, so he will continue to play that". But he sees that the major risk in the American structure is the Secretary of State whom he has known personally for 25 years.

His inference is, not unfounded, Haig has an obsession for power. Hackworth recalled a meeting of army

How the combatants shape up to devastation

IF NUCLEAR war were to break out tomorrow, this is how the Institute for Strategic Studies sees the combatants' strategy:

The USSR

In the Soviet view deterrence is achieved not by the ability to inflict assured destruction, but rather by the ability to win a limited nuclear war.

Should deterrence fail, Soviet armed forces trained in nuclear techniques would be used "purposefully" to achieve military victory.

Strikes would be undertaken simultaneously against US strategic nuclear forces, theatre nuclear weapons (mainly in Europe) and associated facilities including conventional military forces and installations, command and control systems, politico-administrative systems and economic and industrial facilities.

The Soviet Union has so refined its delivery systems that its warheads are now capable of almost pinpoint accuracy.

The survivability factor of the Soviet communications system would be much greater than that of the West. But Soviet nuclear-equipped submarines, being relatively "noisy", would be more readily detectable to US hunters.

However, ship and counter-attack numbers may make up for any lack of sophistication compared with the West.

The West

American policy is public through Directive 59, published by President Carter on July 25 1980. Under the SIOP-5 (acronym for single integrated operational plan five), there are 40,000 potential targets, divided into four principal groups, each of which contains a wide range of target types.

The principal groups are the Soviet Union's own nuclear forces, its general purpose forces, plus military and political leadership centres, and economic and industrial bases.

The US military has been told to improve the effectiveness of its targeting on military objectives, although retaining as a principal objective the destruction of the Soviet economic and industrial base.

At any one time, America has as many as six Advanced Airborne National Command Post System planes in the air, and 18 planes communicating with ballistic missile submarines, and a wide range of satellites.

Also, the US has a sophisticated system of undersea listening posts and sonar sites. These provide early warning and guidance for helicopters, torpedoes and for triggering mines.

chiefs in Vietnam including Haig, designed to discuss the strategic possibility of a successful U.S. penetration into Cambodia.

At the conference Hackworth was called upon to give his analysis of the prospective invasion. In brief Hackworth stated, "it would be a disaster and strategically it would be a great 'dobbybrook' because America had never entered into a war without declaring war. Yet they had every intention of invading a sovereign country." Most disturbing of all according to Hackworth is that it was not unlike the Germans going into Poland in 1941 or the Japanese attacking Pearl Harbour, it was exactly the same act of tyranny.

Yet despite Hackworth's accurate assessment of that particular situation he was simply told by Haig at the time to sit down. Why? Because Haig had heard enough.

A few days later America went in to Cambodia and it turned out to be a tactical disaster and the most unpopular undertaking that ever occurred in U.S. history.

Moreover two million Americans marched against the Cambodian intervention and then when Vice-President Spiro Agnew was told of this great number, he simply said "who's going to listen to a few rabble rousers".

And herein lies Hackworth's disdain, because he believes these actions reflect a lot about democracy and American way of thinking. So that is precisely why he's concerned about Haig's rise to power, and the unconstrained way that Haig seems to be setting the stage for W.W. III.

In hindsight, it was a startled America that watched Haig hardly in control of himself, assume control in the White House after Reagan's shooting. It is said of the former N.A.T.O. commander that all too simply he sees conflicts in terms of good guys and bad guys. And this view could be summed up in one phrase, "the Russians are coming". Haig has made no secret he's out to stop Soviet expansionism and that's the sort of militant talk that frightens Hackworth.

So much so he is convinced of the inevitability of a nuclear war. In his view, "if it is within the arsenal of man which it is today, and a commander on the ground is in trouble, I feel it is inevitable he will protect his unit. If he has nuclear weapons at his finger tips and under his control and his unit is getting overrun he'll use them."

No doubt the temptation to use these weapons of destruction will depend entirely upon the climate of the crisis. But it is a fact that in the next go around that W.W. III will preclude any requirement for W.W. IV. Hackworth believes there wont be a world then. He emphasised this point by stating that it is not David Hackworth speaking it is Einstein who developed the science behind the atomic weapons.

What of Australia? Hackworth angered by our lack of sufficient defence proposals and by this country's lingering subservience to the U.S. - "Australia now is copying a little of the U.K. and U.S., having a little bit of everything, a few F-111's, a few Schnocks, a few leopard tanks and all that junk".

Hackworth is quite adamant that a small nation like this needs one strong unified force. A coast guard, good defence fighter capability and a light S.A.S. reactionary force that can be used for several purposes. Yet it is with a degree of cynicism that Hackworth says "historically, Australia has always been an appendage to someone else's army. Australia has never stood on its own feet". It is this view that perhaps puts Australia in a very vulnerable position.

No doubt, our governments lingering subservience has thwarted any public efforts to consider the seriousness of a nuclear threat. Yet we live in a world perhaps on the brink of nuclear disaster, a world in which, for the first time, the Soviet Union will have the capacity, perhaps to launch a nuclear first-strike and survive. This and the candid cries of an unstable power hungry U.S. Secretary of State create a possible "window of vulnerability", it is no longer science fiction. It is here, now and with us for the next few critical years.



Phan Thi Kim Phuc tore off her flaming clothes after she and other villagers were mistakenly napalmed by a South Vietnamese warplane. This 1972 photograph—more than any other single image—made America conscious of the full horror of the Vietnam war. It was taken by a 22-year-old South Vietnamese combat photographer on Route 1 near Trang Bang, a town 25 miles northwest of Saigon.

HOW TO SURVIVE In A World Of Chaos

This article is an introduction to give some guidance to those who may wish to plan domestic fallout shelter space at moderate cost.

General

In the event of the detonation of a nuclear device on or near the ground, people outside the blast area could be endangered by the radiation emitted from radioactive fallout.

When and where fallout will occur is dependent upon a number of factors, such as the location and height above ground of the burst, the prevailing weather conditions at the time and the strength and direction of the winds following the detonation.

Fallout

If the fireball from the explosion of a nuclear device touches the earth, vaporised materials will be drawn up into the nuclear cloud. This cloud becomes radioactive and the fallout particles may be deposited over considerable distances. The extent and shape of the contaminated area will depend on prevailing weather conditions following the explosion.

Radiation

The gamma rays emitted by radioactive fallout are the most dangerous type of nuclear radiation and are undetectable to human senses, but may be detected and measured with radiological instruments.

Exposure to gamma radiation can cause damage to the cell structure of the human body. If the exposure is limited to small doses the normal body processes can repair the damage caused, but if there is exposure to large doses of radiation irreparable damage and death may result.

Shielding

The level of radiation from fallout decreases relatively rapidly with time. If shelter is sought quickly after an explosion, protection can be afforded by cover of concrete, earth or other dense material. For example, reinforced concrete provides approximately five times the protection afforded by wood. A thickness of about 400mm of concrete would be necessary for adequate protection above ground level. This would give

a protection factor of about 100, i.e. radiation dose received inside such a shelter would be 1 per cent of that in an exposed position.

Depending on the time elapsed since the explosion and intensity of the radiation from fallout, it may be necessary to take shelter for a period of two days up to a period of two weeks.

Fallout shelters

The sketches show the basic principles involved in providing shielding from gamma radiation. The lightweight wall and roof structure shown in Fig.1 permits the entry of a greater proportion of radiation than the heavier or multiple-roof, floor and wall systems shown in Fig.2.

A simple concrete structure that will provide adequate protection above ground level would have reinforced concrete walls and roof 400mm thick. This, however, is not the most economical solution to the problem, so a combination of various materials and methods of construction are used to provide a suitable shelter that will have the same level of protection while keeping the costs within an acceptable range.

There are two main approaches recommended for providing a fallout shelter for a family. The first of these is the use of protective design in housing construction and the other is the construction of separate shelters or improvisation to provide shelter. Each of these approaches is dealt with briefly in this booklet.

PROTECTIVE DESIGN

Protective design, as the name implies, is the incorporation of features in an initial building design to provide adequate protection from the effects of fallout gamma radiation.

Protection may be incorporated without adversely affecting the appearance or normal function of the dwelling and without causing any large increase in the cost.

The use of building materials and the special arrangement of the building spaces to enhance radiation protection are the main factors in providing adequate protection in fallout shelters.

It is important that if fallout shelter space is to be provided in a dwelling,

without adversely affecting its function or beauty, it should be considered in the basic design stage and should be included as an integral part of the building concept. Its function as a shelter should also be an alternative to the primary function for which the space is intended. Thus the space will have a normal full-time use, but may be used as a shelter in an emergency.

The design shown on Fig.H indicates how a suitable shelter area can be included in the layout of the garage incorporated in a dwelling. The normal function of this space would be to provide secondary toilet facilities and a store room, opening directly off the garage. This is one example of what can be done to provide fallout shelter, but of course it will not apply to all circumstances and some variation will be necessary in most cases.

SHELTER CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVISATION

Of all the dense materials, the cheapest and most readily available is earth. This can be used in conjunction with such materials as concrete, concrete blocks, concrete pipes, steel sheeting and timber framing to provide a suitable mass of material to afford shelter from fallout radiation and yet keep the cost factor within acceptable limits.

Some designs are included in this booklet, together with a materials list for each. These designs include separate shelters and improvised shelters in existing buildings. In each case the protection factor of the fallout shelter is in excess of 100.

To ensure that the completed shelter is safe both structurally and as a fallout shelter, it is essential that care be exercised in maintaining the shelter dimensions and material sizes and thicknesses as set out in this booklet.

Any variations to the dimensions of the shelters or combination of materials would necessitate a re-analysis of the shelter from both the radiation and structural points of view.

Adequate consideration should be given to ensuring that the shelter's interior remains dry. Where necessary, such procedures as perimeter and sub-grade drainage, water proofing and damp proofing will be required.

Ventilation requirements

Provision must be made to prevent the

build up of contaminated air in the shelter to a level hazardous to its occupants.

All fallout shelters in this booklet, with the exception of Type G Emergency Underhouse, should be provided with mechanical air blowers.

The mechanical ventilation system should include air intake and exhaust vents.

Mechanical air blowers must be capable of manual operation and be of such capacity that the required volume of fresh air can be delivered by operating the blower for five minutes in every fifteen minutes.

Shelter equipment

As the estimated period of occupancy may extend to fourteen days it will be necessary to equip the shelter with various items needed to sustain the day to day living of the occupants for the required period.

Water

Drinking water to be stored within the shelter to provide each occupant with a minimum of fourteen litres.

Food

Foodstuffs to be stored within the shelter in sufficient quantity to provide each occupant with 10 000 calories.

Sanitation

A suitable type of chemical toilet should be provided, located in such a manner as to minimise the circulation of odours within the shelter.

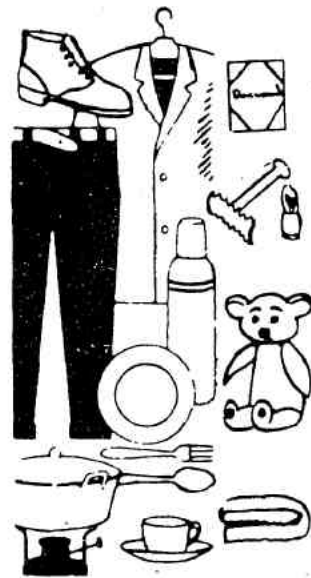
Sundry items

Such items as first aid kit, battery-operated wireless, battery-operated torches, blankets, eating utensils, shovel and crowbar will also need to be included in the shelter's equipment, together with such other items as may be deemed necessary by the occupants to maintain a stay of the required duration. A suggested list follows, to which should be added items required by particular occupants.

Important note:

Before proceeding to build any fallout shelter, State or Territory authorities should be consulted and the required local government authority approval should be obtained. Initial inquiries should be made with the State or Territory Emergency Service.

Recommended equipment for shelter occupation



Personal equipment

Wallet containing personal papers such as: identity cards, valuables, money, blood group card etc.

Strong clothing (according to climate), personal linen.

Heavy shoes.
Toilet articles, razor, soap, toothbrush.
Gas mask (if appropriate).

Cooking facilities, tableware, tin opener, thermos.

Flashlight, candles, matches, writing materials, spare batteries.

Sewing and mending kit.

Prescription drugs, spare spectacles.

Woolen blankets.

Toys for children, books and games.

All this should be packed in a rucksack or small suitcase.



Medical stores

Triangles, slings, dressings, gauze, bandages, compresses, cotton wool, dressings for burns.

Elastic bandages, plasters.

Safety pins, scissors, forceps.
Thermometer.
Ointment for burns.

Disinfectants.

Alcohol and pure benzine, boiled water.

Anti-shock remedies, tranquillisers, sleeping pills, sedatives.

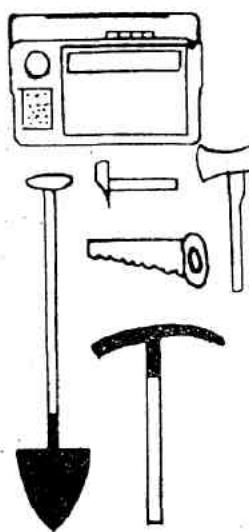
Splints and bandages.

Material for makeshift stretcher.

Woolen blankets, old sheets.

Damp tissues.

(This list is also useful in case of evacuation)



Material and tools

Sitting and sleeping facilities (on 2-3 levels).

Emergency lighting.
Battery-operated radio receiver, spare batteries.

Assorted cleaning materials (soap and other products), makeshift toilet (plastic bags).

Material for shelter outfitting (nails, screws, hammer, pliers, saw, wire, hose-pipe, rule, hatchet, screwdriver, slats and wall plates).

Excavation tools to open blocked exits (pickaxe, shovel, crow bar).



Food reserves

(according to the way of life)

Water reserves in bottles and hermetically sealed receptacles (mineral water).

Condensed and powdered milk.

Ground coffee in tins, tea, cocoa.
Chocolates, refreshing sweets.

Tinned meat, fish etc.

Packaged cheese.

Tinned fruit and vegetables.

Dried fruit, glucose.

Bread, crisp bread, rusks.

Sugar, salt, flour, butter, fat or oil.

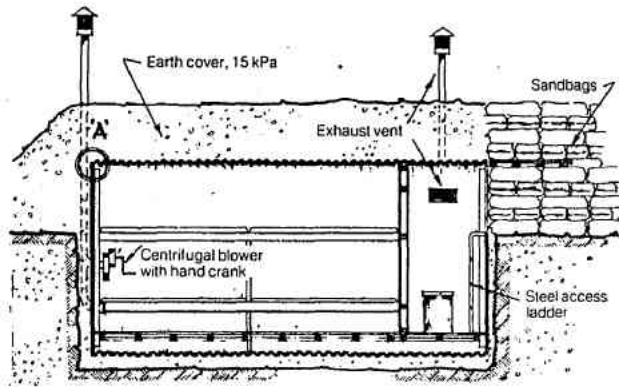
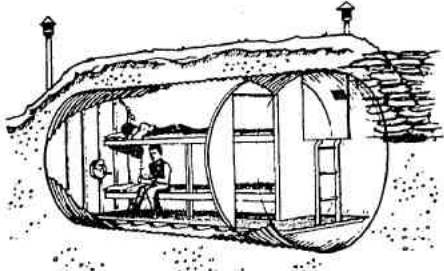
Honey, jam, fruit juice.

Rice, noodles, semolina, oat flakes, lentils.

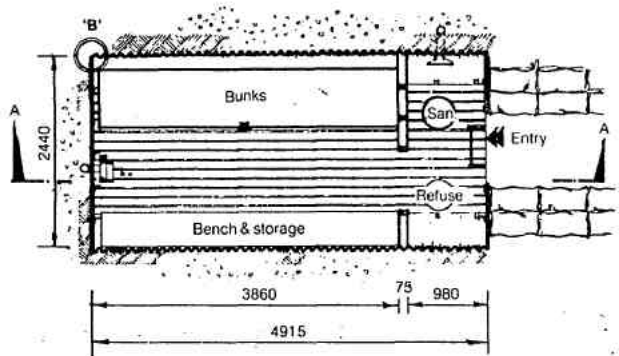
Potatoes, vegetables, fruit (in plastic bags).

t.e.a.s shelter

Curved galvanised steel sheets, wooden floor, earth covered



SECTION A-A



General information

This shelter is designed to provide protection from the effects of radioactive fallout in a below ground, outdoor situation.

It is constructed in the form of a 2440 mm dia. pipe using galv. corrugated steel sheets. Ends are provided by galv. steel roofing and a wooden floor is placed across the bottom to provide a flat walking space inside the shelter.

Technical summary

Space and occupancy. This shelter has about 17.0cu.m of space plus lobby for entry, sanitation and refuse kits.

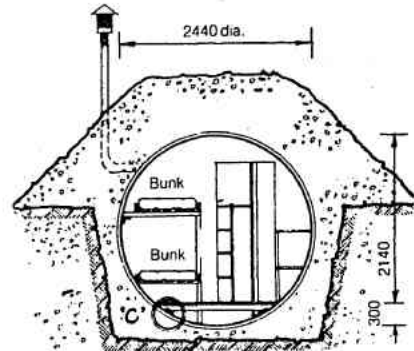
Its recommended maximum capacity is six persons.

Fallout protection factor. The shelter is designed to provide a protection factor of about 3000 if entrance is properly sandbagged.

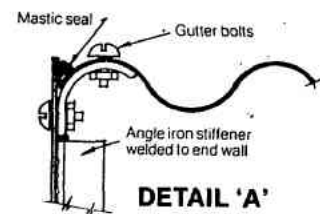
Ventilation. Mechanical ventilation must be provided.

List of required materials

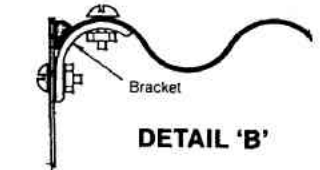
2440mm dia. x 4915mm long, corrugated galv. iron tank	No.1.0
1.6mm gauge steel 2440mm dia. end wall section	No.1.0
Ditto with 900mm hatch opening	No.1.0
Steel brackets	No.102.0
6mm x 12mm mushroom head bolts	No.204.0
Butyl mastic seal	15.24m
Steel 51mm x 51mm x 3mm angle welded stiffener	50.8kg
Steel access ladder	No.1.0
Timber (75mm x 50mm)	0.23 cu.m
Timber (150mm x 25mm)	0.05cu.m
Flooring (100mm x 25mm)	8.40sq.m
1800mm x 810mm sliding door complete with track	No.1.0
5mm-thick hardboard sheeting	3.34sq.m
Exhaust system	No.1.0
Standard sandbags	No.88.0



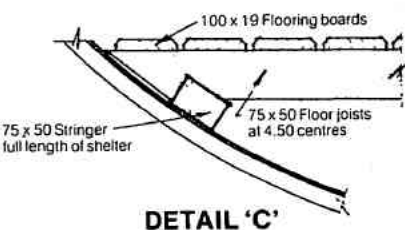
SECTION B-B



DETAIL 'A'



DETAIL 'B'



DETAIL 'C'

BOOK REVIEW

Phonetappers And The Security State

by Duncan Campbell, New Statesman, 1981.*

Duncan Campbell is not well known in Australia. Amongst people who take an interest in intelligence and security matters, however, his name ranks highly as a very reliable source of information on all manner of defence, intelligence and security matters.

Campbell's technique is very simple. He reads an enormous amount of material on defence, telecommunications, police and intelligence community matters — all on the public record — and puts together pieces which at first glance seem unrelated to each other. Patterns begin to emerge which shed a totally new light on defence and intelligence community matters. He also has an enormous range of contacts who help confirm his conclusions and add still further weight to his material.

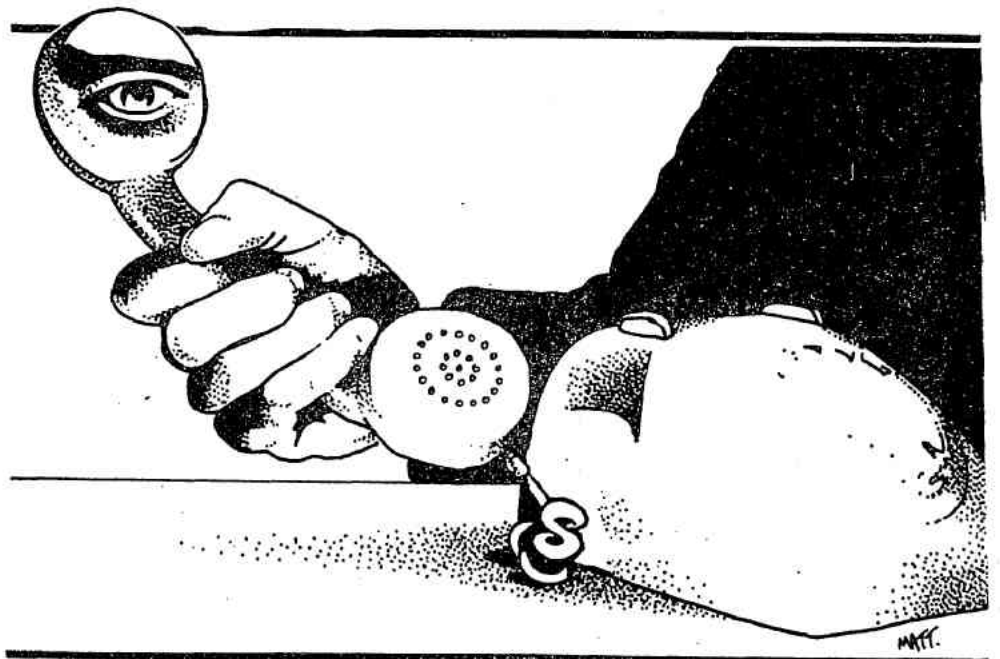
Playing with these sorts of puzzles is a risky business. In 1977, Campbell, in company with another journalist, Crispin Aubrey, and a former British Army corporal, John Berry, were hauled before the Old Bailey on charges of breaching the infamous Official Secrets Act. The ABC Trial, as it became known, resulted in only token convictions against Campbell, Berry and Aubrey and embarrassment for the British Government.

Campbell is indefatigable as an investigative journalist. After the ABC trial, he

took some of the information that the Government had used against him and used it to show that the allegations which had resulted in the trial in the first place were, in fact, true. Some of these allegations appear in 'Phonetappers and the Security State', and relate specifically to the functions of the various British and American intelligence agencies in tapping communications and opening mail in Britain and in Europe.

The Pine Gap of Europe is the major US base in Yorkshire, Menwith Hill. Campbell shows that Menwith Hill, with the active cooperation of the British Government, monitors an enormous amount of the British domestic telecommunications traffic and almost all of the overseas telecommunication traffic to and from Britain. Through thick cables running from Post Office microwave towers near Leeds, Menwith Hill, using some of the most powerful computers in the world, can monitor literally hundreds of thousands of conversations on the British communications system. Menwith Hill is run by the largest US intelligence agency, the National Security Agency.

Pine Gap was set up by the NSA and its first chief was Richard Lee Stallings of the NSA. Pine Gap is not located at the center of the Australian telecommunication network, as Menwith Hill is located in the geographical center of the British network, but both bases perform many of the same functions in precisely the same ways. Powerful antennas scoop up electronic intelligence (ELNIT) from all over the world and feed it into computers which sift the mun-



dane from the useful and make it available to human operatives. In the ELNIT game, just about anything is useful.

There are many other issues covered in 'Phonetappers and the Security State'. For example as the ATEA and the Postal and Telegraphists Union have been warning for years in Australia, computerisation of the telephone system gives the security managers enormous potential for tapping telephones for reasons which most people would find highly objectionable. Duncan Campbell makes it clear that such activity

is quite routine in Britain. He also links the British and US intelligence communities together, providing the details needed to make factual the links that others have said existed but failed to convincingly prove.

In just 70 pages, Duncan Campbell provides concrete and deeply disturbing evidence which indicates that 1984 is just the touch of a button away.

—MARK D. HAYES

* 'Phone tapping and the Security State' is available from the New Statesman, 10 Great Turnstile, London, WC1V 6HU. Cost is A\$4.00 including postage.

Sexism in Comics

MINNIE THE HOUSE-MOUSE AND PORKY THE CHAUVINIST PIG



Frenchman Moebius indulges his sexual fantasies. From *Heavy Metal*.



The Smurfette's "feminine" touch disrupts Smurf life. By Peyo.

Good clean outdoor activities take on a new appearance under Crumb's smutty pen.



Crumb's obsession is adolescent girls with huge thighs. Their images pervade his comics ad nauseum.



In 1935 the League of Nations voted its approval of Mickey Mouse. For a fictitious cartoon character it was the highest of honours — he had become a symbol of America and the Free World.

But poor Mickey's personality was doomed. His previous cheeky and mischievous antics were out of place in his new role as American ambassador to the world. The poor rodent was sentenced to be lobotomised, moralised, and dressed up in shirt and bowtie.

As a symbol of invincibility, Mickey became a problem for his comicbook script-writers. He could not be shown being outwitted by villains, not even momentarily. So to add suspense to his fight against evil, Goofy and Minnie were brought in. Goofy, the useless bumbling halfwit, was forever sneezing his way into problems; Minnie was the hapless heroine, always in need of rescue. Fortunately Goofy never discovered anti-histamines, nor Minnie feminism, and Mickey America Mouse continues his battle against evil to this day.

Comic books are laced with ideology. Mickey Mouse and Captain America are the norms, not the exceptions. They and other comic characters have an undoubted role in inducing social values among children.

This role has rarely been analysed. Dorfman and Mattelart in *How to Read Donald Duck: imperialist ideology in the Disney comics* looked critically at Donald and Scrooge's ventures in the Third World — scenarios of ignorant savages fawning before the white capitalists.

But in analyses of sexism comics have escaped most of the critiques applied to children's picture books and educational programmes. While a variety of alternative non-sexist children's books have recently become available, comics remain a form for sexist views.

The Phantom: "Where is the Dove Girl?"

Villain: "In . . . Women's Quarters."

Phantom: Women's quarters! I'd rather go into a lion cage."

Comic books tend to be written by men who have vividly retained their childhood fantasies. The scenarios they create are the ideal 'little boy's adventures' — violent brawls where no one is ever killed, searches for riches in strange lands, and an absence of complex social interactions particularly where women are concerned.

As such, the sexism in children's comics is not that of their adult authors, but of the little boys they once were.

Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, and Asterix are just small boys dressed up as adults. Their diminutive size (half that of the characters around them) and boyish physique (narrow shoulders, broad hips) matches the immaturity of their social relations.

Women are not portrayed as objects to be dominated and seduced, they are mostly just not portrayed at all.

The Smurf World is the most neurotic of these fantasies. Here life is so clean and simple that women are non-existent, until the nasty wizard creates a clay "Smurfette" is disrupt the Smurfs' innocence. Regrettably the Smurfs are gaining popularity in Australia by association by a BP promotion; more and more children will become infected with the cartoonist's neurosis.

Asterix is a boyish fantasy of brawls and fighting in a war without fatalities. Women are seen very rarely, usually serving food. Asterix's author Goscinny could per-

haps claim his sexism was for historical accuracy (his adventure is set in Roman-occupied Gaul) except that his village economy — with villagers selling food to each other in shops — is a capitalistic travesty of real village life.

Women appear more often in Disney comics, but their stereotypes are just as insulting. Daisy Duck is reserved for domestic scenes, while Minnie Mouse is forever being kidnapped.

Disney's sexual embarrassment was so extreme he could not bear the innuendo of a family living together. So *Uncle Donald* cares for his *nephews*, while Daisy live with her *nieces*.

In many Donald Duck comics Daisy becomes a superego for Donald, berating his irresponsibilities. (Donald inherited Mickey's irresponsibilities after the latter became an American symbol.) This role is best (or worst) developed in Harvey Comics in which Spooky the Ghost promises to stop 'booing' to please girlfriend Pearl (Poil).

In all these stories women are shown lacking initiative, independence, courage and resourcefulness. Always playing B roles, they act as backdrops for the egos of the little boy heroes.

The superhero comics show women in slightly more mature roles. Women in Phantom comics are often intelligent and assertive, their only frailty being an infatuation with their hero. Unhappily the Phantom, like most superheroes, is sexually inadequate, and he flees to the pub for a glass of milk instead.

Superhero comics reflect the fantasies of insecure male adolescents — a striving for power and masculinity, but with an aversion to sexuality. The hero's bulging muscles verge on obscenity — but there is no bulge in the crotch. Superheroes have no need for passion, or even friendship; they are too busy fighting aliens and other enemies of America. The superhero represents the ideal American male — not too intelligent, eager for good clean violence, and brave to the point of stupidity. Except for a few female superheroes, women are ignored, or remain out of reach.

Against such a backdrop of sexual repression it is perhaps not surprising the late 60s produced an alternative comic movement. With widespread rebellions against established moral values, comics were a prime target.

Cartoonists such as Crumb, Wilson and Spain smashed through the inhibitions and conventions of previous comic artists. They filled pages with lurid representation of their obsessions — sodomy, necrophilia, drug abuse and violence. With the 'me' generation's emphasis on self expression, they explored their neuroses in graphic detail.

Unfortunately this was of no use to the emerging feminist movement. The obsessions of underground cartoonists were highly sexist. Comics were becoming frank for the first time, but the women they portrayed remained the caricatures of men's expectations. Robert Crumb in particular was attacked by feminists, and even devoted an abusive strip to repudiating their accusations.

The shortcoming of the alternative comic movement was that apart from a few ecological themes, and a belief in freedom from censorship, it remained apolitical. The cartoonists were reacting against the cutesy animal comics of their childhood; but their reactions were emotional, not political.

The most recent trend in comic book marketing has been the emergence of sophisticated space fantasy comics inspired by the French magazine *Metal Hurlant*. The American equivalent *Heavy Metal* reprints the best French strips alongside many American stories.

A few *Heavy Metal* stories deal with unusual sexual themes. A strip by Frenchman Moebius portrayed a lone astronaut trying to repair his robot playmate. Her defect? Whenever activated she kicked him in the groin, calling him a male chauvinist pig. The cover of the first *Heavy Metal* was also unusual — showing a female robot smashing apart a male equivalent.

But later issues have become more obviously sexist. The magazine is little more than a forum for male fantasies of sex, violence and adventure. Fascist rock stars copulate with sensuous tiger women, and blood flows freely. Women exist only as sex objects.

Comics remain a bastion of male sexist views. Different comic genres portray women in different roles, but they always



Minnie Mouse flaunts her insecurities and inadequacies.



The American magazine *Heavy Metal* indulges the sexual and sado-masochistic fantasies of its male cartoonists. Voss above, Sire at right.



remain 2-dimensional stereotypes in a world of male adventures.

Women have made few inroads into comic production. The alternative comic movement produced several women cartoonists, but their work was mostly of low quality and unmemorable.

Mary K. Brown and Claire Bretecher are two outstanding women cartoonists. Both have an excellent style and deal intelligently with women's experiences.

But the business of children's comic book production remains firmly under male control. A survey of children's comic books could only conclude that none deal intelligently with sex roles. If a non-sexist comic movement ever emerges, it will have been a long time coming.

—TIM LOW

SPACE INVADERS

Following several recent reports that playing *Space Invaders* was likely to cause damage to mental health, the Vole, on behalf of terrified students, went to consult leading psychiatrist Dr Ernest Frontal-Lobe on this matter.

And this is what the good doctor said, "Well, the short answer is No. What happens is that the patient places a coin in the machine and the screen before him is then illuminated with row upon row of alien creatures advancing towards him in a malevolent manner."

"It is now imperative for the patient to quickly eliminate his enemy with themissiles provided. Failure to do this can well result in the death of the player."

"I do not understand the logic of half the people on the Board."

— Talcum Jockstrap

Quote of the Week:

CHEERS!

UNESCO OFFICIAL IN AUSTRALIA

by Ean Higgins

One of the more intriguing targets on the razor gang's 'hit list' is Australia's role in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Created in 1945, UNESCO perhaps more than any other member of the United Nations family has been accused of straying from its original mandate and being paralysed by ideological and political division. Controversy concerning UNESCO peaked in 1974 when the delegates voted sanctions against Israel and some governmental and academic institutions in the United States and elsewhere temporarily severed links with the organization.

World attention has more recently focused on the UN agency's central role in proposals for a "New International Information Order" and the report of a UNESCO commission headed by former Irish foreign minister Sean MacBride on the issue. After considerable debate, the then 152 UNESCO member states passed the report by majority in October, under the name "New World Information Order". Certain Third World governments have regarded the NWIO as a call for balanced reporting on the affairs of their nation and the use of media for development and have been supported by socialist states, while Western governments, and journalists from all over the globe see it as a scheme to restrict the free flow of information.

At a time when the Lynch Committee is proposing to cut the Government's funding of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO and Australian representation to the Paris-based organization may be reduced, a figure who is perhaps the best qualified to comment knowledgeably on the agency has been visiting Canberra. He is John Fobes, Chairman of the United States National Commission for UNESCO, and former Deputy Director-General of the organization.

A native of Chicago, Dr Fobes studied International Relations at Northwestern University and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in association with Harvard. His career in the United Nations began in London in 1945 as he was waiting to be "de-mobbed", when he worked as "Accommodations Officer" for the Preparatory Commission of the UN. He described his first job as having to "borrow, or steal, all of the desks and typewriters and other equipment to set-up the offices". From then on he was involved with international organization affairs from both within the UN and with the US Department of State.

Dr Fobes entered UNESCO in 1964 as Assistant Director-General for Administration, and after a year's sabbatical at Indiana and Harvard Universities in 1970 rose to become Deputy Director-General, the Number two position in the organization, a post he held until the end of 1977. Since his return to the United States he has been a member of the US National Commission for UNESCO, and was elected to its chair in December 1979.



National Commissions are provided for in the UNESCO constitution as representative bodies of the educational, scientific and cultural institutions of the member-states. In the US it consists of 100 members, 60 appointed by non-governmental organizations and 40 by the Secretary of State, and is funded through a grant from the State Department. Its Australian counterpart comprises fifty-five members appointed by the Minister for Education and a Secretariat of nine officials forming a special section of his Department.

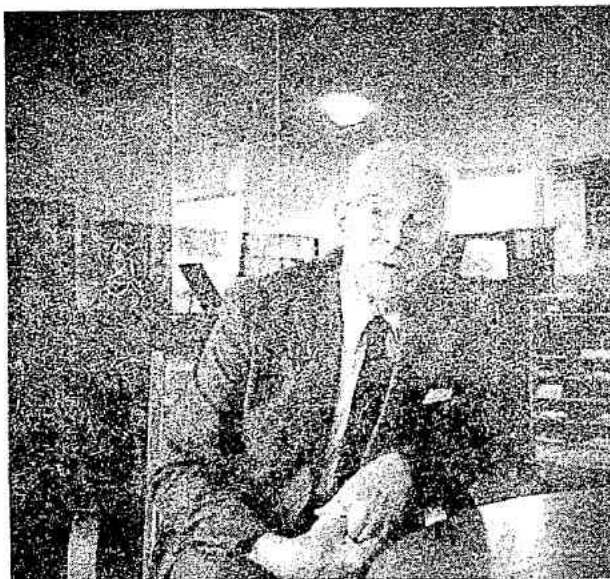
Dr Fobes is visiting Australia at the invitation of the Australian National Commission for two weeks as part of an experimental "visiting fellows" programme to bring UNESCO-experienced persons to Australia with a view to exchange ideas. His functions in Canberra have included giving a talk to the International Relations Department of ANU. In a later interview he expressed some of his views on UNESCO, excerpts of which are included below:

Order and the MacBride Report. How would you respond to the criticism that what UNESCO is really proposing to do is to cut down the freedom of the press, and in particular to place restraints on foreign correspondents operating in the Third World, under the guise of protecting them?

Answer:

Well, UNESCO... first of all is composed of a hundred and fifty-four member-states, and what it does is determined by those member-states meeting in general conference. It does, of course, provide a forum for groups of states to be very critical, to give voice to their resentment... In respect of information, the two resentments that have been expressed are: One, the management of the means of communication in the world, whether of the large news agencies or the production of information meaning television shows and the production of books and so on, has been in the hands, in the eyes of the other world, the Third World, of Western corporate bodies. And they would like to have a voice or a participation in the management of the movement of information. And the second... resentment is that they feel that the story, the news about the Third World... has been inaccurate, or biased, or not fair, and they would like a change in the way in which news about them is presented. And more news about them; they feel that the flows of news are unbalanced. These resentments are voiced by political leaders of the Third World, who are also concerned about their political control at home, and their management of development at home. And to them, they would like to use the means... of communication to promote, they would say, to promote development.

Some of them of course mean to promote their own positions and their own control, and this is what comes out of UNESCO forums. And there have certainly been points at which there was a danger... that UNESCO would in fact inscribe these points of view as part of international norms and standards, and that's where the greatest battles have come. And although... there've been compromises, I would say that UNESCO, in the final analysis, has not adopted what you call "public policy", whether control of the press, or which would sanction control of the press because in fact it



DR JOHN FOBES

A PROFESSIONAL VIEW ON UNESCO

Question:

What are the main functions of UNESCO, and which do you see as being the most successful?

Reply:

Well, UNESCO, like all UN specialized agencies, is supposed to exchange information, that is, to promote the exchange of information. Secondly, to work out cooperative arrangements, across borders. Thirdly to establish norms and standards in the field of UNESCO. All of this, presumably, to contribute to international understanding and peace. UNESCO is the more complex of the specialized agencies, since it deals with more than one subject; education, natural science, social science, culture and communication. In all of those fields you can say it's been successful - well, it's done its job in promoting the exchange of information... It was the first one to help developing countries establish national libraries, and to link those with libraries in the Western world. Then, when it comes to promoting actual cooperative ventures the greatest success is in science, where not, certainly not all, but a large part of the world's cooperative research has been either arranged by UNESCO or facilitated, or universities have worked it out because they've met together at UNESCO. When it comes to norms and standards, well, we always cite the Florence Agreement. That was the agreement by which all educational and visual aid materials were... to cross borders, customs-free...

... It also provokes controversy, of course [chuckle]. That's the next question.

Question:

Recently, that's to say over the past few years but in the last couple of years in particular, UNESCO has come in for considerable criticism, particularly as regard the so-called New International Information

is controlled in many parts of the world... although it comes close to it at times, for example the registration of journalists... And you could argue that even though the debate has been hot, and there have been some things that, some expressions in UNESCO resolutions, which do not fit with our Western value, that the debate in fact has strengthened the hands of those people in Third World countries who share the value about access to information... and who try to reflect that at home but have difficulties in Africa and Asia and so on... We've perhaps actually spread the ideas and the values of free flow and freedom of information. The battle is... not yet over, it's only begun. And in a sense the Western media were not aware of the emerging storm. It came upon them of a sudden, and they immediately reacted negatively. And it's a pity, because if the battle is to be won it's not just to be won at the UNESCO conferences... it's going to be won by people who have some vision of the future development of communications in the world, and who really do work towards a new [order].

Question:

Moregenerally, UNESCO and the United Nations as a whole have come to be seen in the West in recent years as open houses for the South to harp on a large number of grievances, usually directed at Western governments, and some argue that very little of real value comes out. But more specifically, a move to cut contributions to UNESCO and the United Nations has been afoot in both the US and Australia, especially recently in this country with the razor gang. Why should Australian and American taxpayers support UNESCO?

Reply:

Well, they (shouldn't support UNESCO unless they believe that it's a piece of a United Nations system which, however inadequate and however annoying at times, is a step on the road to greater world order. And on the other hand, if they do believe that these organizations contribute something towards international understanding and exchange among the peoples of the world, and if they believe they could do better, then they have to get in and fight, you could say, for what they believe in. And if you want to stay in and fight... even when ridiculous things are said and unpleasant charges are made, you pay your dues... One can argue about whether the share that Western nations bear in financing [the] United Nations system, both the assessed contributions and voluntary, is right, whether the OPEC countries could pay more, for example, and certainly you could argue about the way decisions are made... But you have to pay, and then work hard.

The Great Woroni Bicycle Race



Will take place in
BUSH WEEK
More details later

Council Rejects Chancellor

Woroni's Bureaucracy Correspondent, Ian Rout, reports on the May meeting of University Council.

The ANU Council at its last meeting overwhelmingly rejected a move to extend the term of the Chancellor, Sir John Crawford. Council, not realising that I had moved the motion with the aim of having it defeated so that I could use the above headline, appointed a large committee to recommend that Sir John's term be extended (I am not on the committee — the typewriter ribbon expired after eighteen (yes, really) names). Council members were unimpressed by my argument that time and administrative expense could be saved since I knew what the committee was going to recommend. Several members vowed not to forgive me for spoiling the surprise.

Other matters considered by Council included:

Arts Faculty report. The Dean, Dr Ramson reported with pride that the publication rate of the Faculty, measured in pieces of paper per academic staff member per unit time, had doubled since 1977. He inferred from this that each Faculty member was discovering twice as much, neglecting other explanations: for instance, that his academics have discovered double spacing, or are using words that are twice as long. Whatever the explanation it shows that staff members have worked out their promotions and appointments are determined by putting piles of publications on a set of scales ("publish or perish"). Which establishes the point that Dr Ramson was trying to make — that Arts Faculty academics are not stupid.

Answering a question on the effect of the introduction of postgraduate fees on the research output of the Faculty, Dr Ramson predicted that more research would be done. His argument runs that postgraduates in the Arts Faculty, unlike Science post-graduates who do lots of research (for publication under their supervisors' names), merely waste academics' time by asking silly questions.

Bettina Arndt, editor of "Forum" (the journal of modern technology) asked a Dorothy Dix question about the proliferation of diverse assessment schemes in the Faculty. Dr Ramson said that it was shocking that forty-five different schemes were used in the Arts Faculty; such inefficiency had not been in existence when he took over as Dean, and his successor should do something about it immediately. And quite right too — how would students feel if we had to spend so much time and effort assessing academics?

Vice-Chancellor's report: The Vice-Chancellor reported that he had visited Hong Kong and London and made speeches, one of which was very good. Trips to Singapore, Monte Carlo, the Bahamas, Bali, the Gold Coast, Prince Charles' wedding and Wollongong were in doubt, but he was pressing ahead with writing speeches in the hope that his camera would be repaired in time.

Student organisations, the ANU Act, accounting, the law, etc. The Government is in the habit of amending the ANU Act every week or so in an attempt to prevent the Students' Association paying affiliation fees to the Australian Union of Students. The Act forbids the S.A. to use General Services Fee money for this purpose (the GSF is the fee you paid at the beginning of the year without knowing why), and a number of barristers are keeping themselves fed by advising on what constitutes GSF money. For instance, Woroni costs around \$14,000 p.a. to produce (whether you think it's worth it is irrelevant to the operation of the Act) and takes in around \$2,500 in advertising revenue — does it lose \$11,500, or does it generate \$2,500 in "free" income? The Honorable Member for Dundas (supported by Senator Reid when she worked out what was going on) made a number of long speeches about "laundering" money; I have some sympathy with Mr Ruddock's views — two days after the meeting I laundered \$11, and I felt rather silly



peeling it off the inside of the washing machine.

Mr Fife is believed to have sent Prof. Low a letter announcing the Government's intention to amend the Act again. When I entered the room that morning there were copies of the letter around the table, but the tea-person was sent around to collect them before I could read it. The V.C., when I challenged him on the disappearance of the letter, told me that he had conferred with people more important than me and decided that I was too unimportant to be allowed to read it. He would hold more discussions with more important people and the letter might be sent out if it was thought that members of Council would be interested in it, though he was sure we wouldn't be.

Freedom of Information Bill. I am unable to report on discussion of this item.

The Story the Press Won't Print

LADY DI PREGNANT?

Sources close to the Royal Physician disclosed to an Australian journalist in London that Lady Di has been experiencing morning sickness.

The information has, according to the source, been suppressed by the chief editors of most of Britain's big dailies. "They just don't want to hear about it," he said.

The information concerning Lady Di's health has been 'leaked' despite a determined effort by Buckingham Palace officials to keep it secret.

The only solution for the Royal Couple would be to abort the child. However it is a well known fact that Lady Di is not in favour of having her own children aborted. In an interview earlier this year she said "I believe in a woman's right to choose, and I choose not to."

The timing of the wedding is significant. Our source has indicated that the morning sickness began only a month ago. The Royal Couple, should they choose to go ahead and have the

child, would need to have a four month honeymoon in order to have the child without drawing the public's attention. The wedding, to take place in a month's time, will ensure no outward evidence exists for Lady Di and, presumably, Prince Charles', misdemeanors.

The news that the Royal Couple intend to spend their honeymoon on board the Royal Yacht Britannia comes as no surprise. It would be the ideal place to ensure that absolute privacy is respected.

The Royal Yacht serves the dual role of being a Royal Yacht and a hospital vessel fully equipped to play her role in any emergency. The Yacht has operating theatres and is fully equipped to carry out abortion operations.

This solution would ensure that no publicity would result from the operation. Hospitalisation ashore would draw so much attention that it is unlikely that the secret could be kept for long.

Whatever eventuates, the ability of the Royal Family to avoid threats of imminent disaster will, no doubt, prevail.

Yowie Out Near Yass

Several residents of Yass reported seeing the so-called 'Yass Yowie' last weekend after returning from a trip to the Gundaroo Pub.

Mr Jenkins, speaking for the group, said "We were returning by car along the Gundaroo Road, when a weird bear-like beast jumped out in front of the car."

He described the Yowie as having a "human like form" but moved in "loping bounds". Mr Jenkins told police that he had had to swerve off the road to avoid the creature.

Although the occupants of the car only caught a glimpse of the Yowie as it ran across their path, they were sure it was neither a kangaroo nor a bunyip.

This is the fourth report the Yass police have received of Yowie sightings since April. Sergeant Hall of the Yass Police said in a statement to Woroni that the increased Yowie activity in the area was "no cause for alarm".

"I don't believe in such things", he said. "Besides, all the sightings happened at night."

As a possible explanation Sergeant Hall suggested that a large lame kangaroo could have been the cause for the sightings.

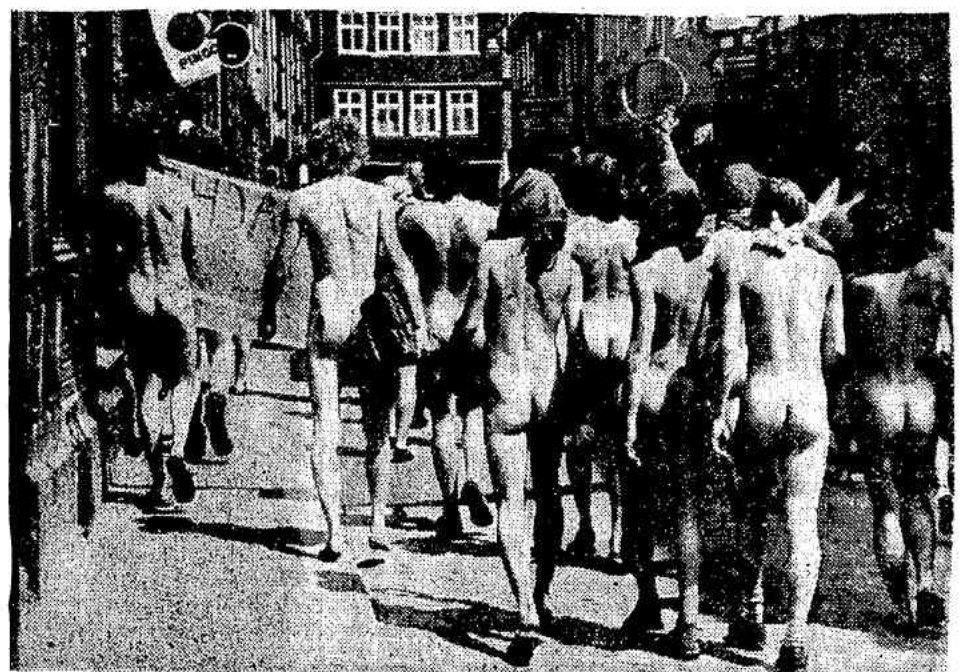
This would account for the 'loping' gait which was common to all reports.

Dr Firthson of ANU's Research School of Biological Sciences has been studying the biological possibility that "yowies, yetties and other creatures with abominable characteristics" could exist.

He also said that while the chance of an animal mutation is possible, the best explanation "is that the Yowie is the adult of a child abandoned at birth probably on account of being badly mutated."

This theory ties in with explanations given for the existence of the Nepalese Yeti. Indian scientists working in the Himalayas have photographic evidence to back up their belief that the Yeti is the basic mutation of a homo sapien. They have documented evidence that the people who dwell high up in the Yeti infested areas, have practiced abandoning deformed and weak off-spring as they pose too great a burden on a community which struggles to survive in an extraordinarily harsh environment.

So it looks as if the Yass Yeti may not be the product of lively imaginations, but the mutated progeny of some back-country Australian folk.



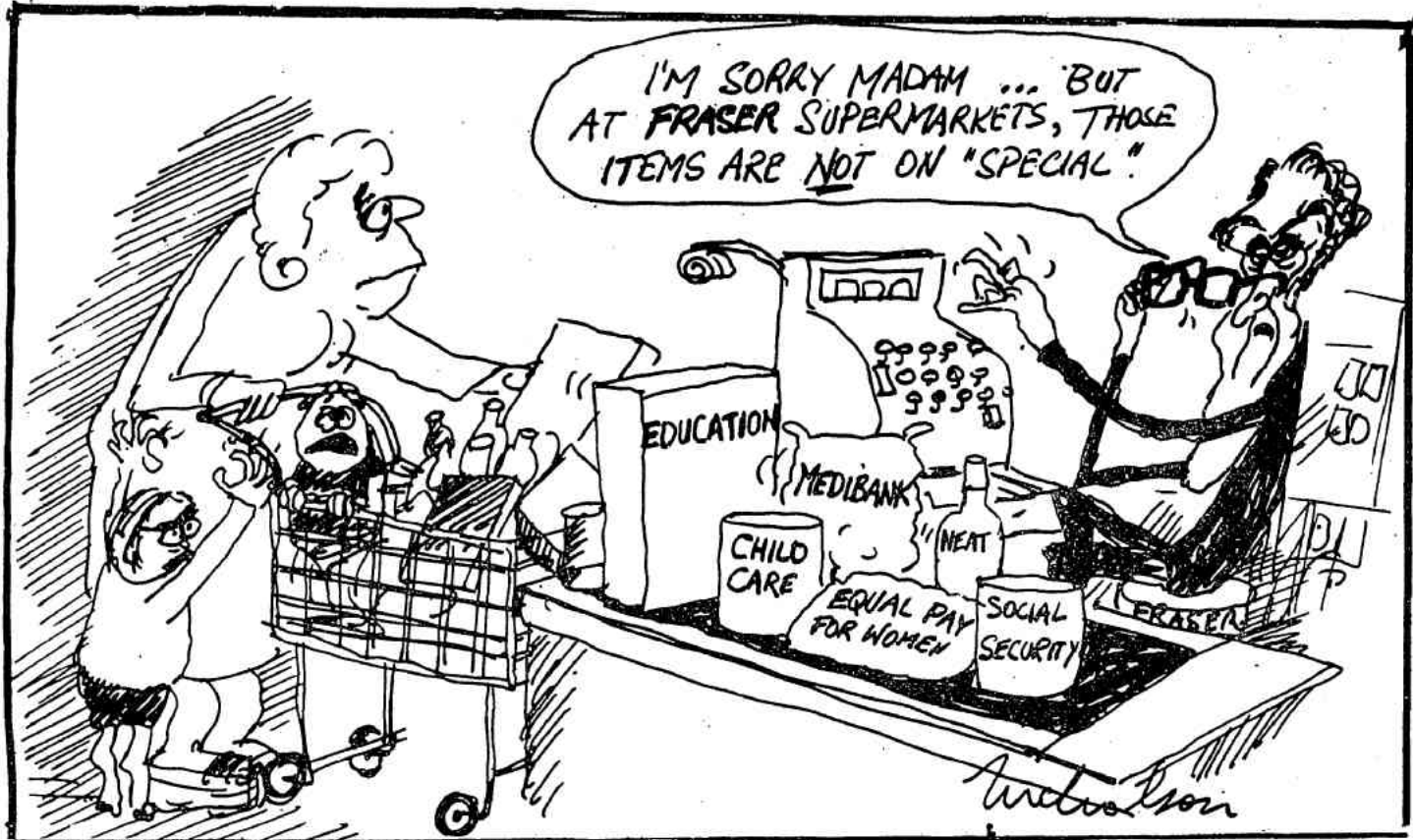
University students in the West German city of Marburg march naked through the street in protest against cuts in education subsidies.

FREE EDUCATION SPECIAL

WEEK OF ACTION
AGAINST FEES, LOANS,
AND CLOSURES

Wednesday: forum in the tank at 1 p.m. Speakers from FrEd Coll., Academic Staff, the RSA, and the VC.
Thursday: market day, with a rally on the state of the national campaign at 1 p.m. in the union court.
Friday: Women's day. There will be a lunchtime forum on child care facilities and other issues.

We will be sending Malcolm a huge POST CARD (about 2 by 3 m.) There will be a lot of space for everyone to write a message - so please participate, let them know what we think of the cutbacks.



MAKE THE COUNCIL SAY NO TO FEES & LOANS

You may have heard that three weeks ago the Council of Adelaide Uni. took a strong stand against the Federal Government by refusing to administer fees or loans. Just recently, the University of New England made a similar move. And the Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie will be leading his students in the big demonstration in Sydney

this thursday. ANU Council has expressed its concern. Council has done this before to no great effect. Let's urge council to take a tougher stand. The next meeting is on July the 10th, and there will be a motion similar to those at Adelaide and UNE. Students are organising a picket of the meeting and hope to discuss the matter

with individual council members on their way into the meeting. Why not come along - it's your education: 9 am, on June 10th
at the Chancelry

URGE A.N.U. COUNCIL TO SAY NO TO THE RAZOR GANG.

THE RAZOR GANG, STUDENTS & EDUCATION FUNDING

Introduction of a loans scheme

For our purposes, there are two kinds of loans for students. First, there are loans to cover immediate short-term needs, to alleviate specific hardships. Obviously this kind of loan should be available - although if TEAS was adequate it would probably be unnecessary.

What we are opposed to are 'comprehensive' loans, which are supposed to cover all the students' costs during her or his period of study. These loans are basically a substitute for a grants scheme such as TEAS, and it is clear that the loans to be introduced are in this category, since we are told in the razor gang report and in the education funding guidelines that TEAS will be reviewed in the light of the availability of a loans scheme.

Loans are bad because they are discriminatory. Students from poor backgrounds will be deterred from incurring debts. Parental pressures against women proceeding into higher education will be reinforced. Since the average female income is lower than the average male, independent women would be in a worse position to take on loans. Women and mature age students are seen by lending institutions as a bad risk.

A survey recently conducted at La Trobe found that a much higher proportion of women than men would defer or not enrol through being unable to afford to take on loans.

Loans schemes force students to orient themselves towards a highly paid job upon graduation. This will deter people from socially useful but low paid work, and from courses of educational importance but not direct vocational utility. Students will also be deterred from studying critical courses such as Women's Studies which might be disapproved of by future employers.

Failure of courses would become a very serious matter - a student could be forced to take out an extra year's loan.

Loans will force all but the rich into short courses. Longer degrees such as Law and Medicine could only be available to those who could afford big debts or did not need such loans. This typifies the elitist component of most of the 'user pays' policy in the Liberal government's decisions.

Loans schemes overseas have been administratively chaotic and financially costly. The schemes (in the US, Canada, and Scandinavia) have involved massive paperwork and many bad debts.

Tightening TEAS (Is it really possible?)

The criteria for eligibility for the living away from home rate have been narrowed. This has a conservative effect - forcing students into personal as well as financial dependence upon their parents. This applies to people aged up to 25.

De facto relationships no longer are acceptable as grounds for independent status. 'Independent status' has always been dubiously defined, and in this case the distinction between legal and de facto marriage can only be made upon the basis of an anachronistic moral stance.

Fees

Although these apply only to second and postgraduate degrees, a significant number of future ANU students will be affected.

13.2% of students are in the second degree category. (This excludes various approved combinations, such as Arts/Law.)

There are 1096 postgraduate students at ANU, and some of them will be affected. The government has backpeddled significantly on postgraduate fees since the razor gang report came down by broadening the types of scholarship which are exempt. This was a response to the strong opposition, so things like our big demonstration a few weeks ago can have some effect.

Fees will narrow access by excluding those who cannot afford to pay. Working class people, women, and mature age students in particular will be discriminated against.

It is often said that the abolition of tertiary fees did not broaden the availability of tertiary education. First of all, this is wrong: all the references in newspapers and parliamentary speeches are based on one survey utilised by the Williams report. A critical analysis of this survey has cast great doubts upon the validity of its findings. The view that the abolition of fees did not broaden access is also refuted by the high proportions of students (often between 20 and 25%) who would defer or not re-enrol if fees were introduced. Secondly, it is hypocritical for the Liberals to claim to speak for those without access to tertiary education, when the narrow access is the product of various policies, high funding to private schools for instance, which they have consistently advocated and implemented.

The fees will hit public servants and teachers attempting to further their education, and will deter people who simply want to continue their education.

Postgraduate students contribute a great deal to research. Much of this work is done by people who are not on scholarships exempt from fees.

Public service study leave

We are told in the razor gang report that public service study leave will now only be granted in essential cases. 26% of the undergraduate enrolment at ANU consists of public servants, and there is no doubt that many of these will be affected. However, it is very unclear how 'essential' is to be interpreted, and consequently no estimate of the numbers ANU will lose can be made. Nevertheless, this is another attack on public service workers which we should oppose.

College 'rationalisations'

Thirty colleges are to be amalgamated by the end of the year, despite the fact that many of these smaller institutions are relatively cost-efficient. Most of the institutions to be amalgamated are involved in teacher-training, and there will be a serious shortage of teachers from the mid-1980s unless the recent and present cuts are reversed.

These closures will be discriminatory - working class people and women contribute significantly to CAE enrolment, may be excluded.

The amalgamations will be inefficient in the short term because more staff will be required to facilitate amalgamations, creating infrastructures, linking library systems, and so on. But in the long term jobs will fall, not just through attrition but through actual dismissals, as has been planned for the amalgamations of the Sydney colleges.

Most of the government's decisions do not, in fact, save the government a great deal of money. These are ad hoc decisions: as bodies like the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee were quick to point out, relevant authorities were not consulted. In a recent lobbying session Fife admitted that no feasibility studies had been made of a loans scheme, but said that the decision was irreversible. The decisions are more of an attack upon education than a real attempt to save money. Fees will save virtually nothing and loans will cost a great deal. The thrust of the decisions is to make education more hierarchical and more elitist. Education, particularly in tertiary institutions, has been a source of dissent, and we can note that innovative and critical courses are often the first to go.

Saying NO to the razor gang should involve more than saying no to fees and loans. We should also be saying no to elitism and the economy which produces and reproduces inequality. It should also involve encouraging a critical education: we want properly funded education, but we also want education which is worth funding properly.

INTERCOURSE: A Warning

By the Reverend Lorry Gestalt

Hello there, I would like to tell you a story about two young people. Let's just call them Greg and Wendy. They were a couple of wholesome, well-presented, neatly coiffured, happy-go-lucky kids quite similar in many respects to a lot of you people reading this article right now.

Wendy was in her final year at school, getting good grades and had aspirations towards becoming either an air hostess or a kindergarden teacher.

Greg was a year older than Wendy and had already gone some way towards securing a future. He worked as a service station attendant by day and attended classes in panel beating at a local technical college by night.

The two of them had met when they were both still at school, and I suppose, thought, in their own youthful, reckless and ill-informed sort of way that they were in love.

Now don't misunderstand me! There was nothing unhealthy or unpleasant about this relationship at all. Certainly, they would gaze into each others eyes for hours upon end. But as for physical contact... well, both parties fully realised the inherent danger that this involved. Both — you might say — readily perceived the primrose hue of that particular path, and, as a result, steered well clear of it.

But the flesh, as they say in the classics, is weak. And fate has a funny way of putting us all in positions of temptation. In the case of our two friends, it was an ill-timed excursion to Craigburn taken by Wendy's parents.

On the face of it, there was nothing really untoward about Greg's offer to look in on Wendy dust after tea-time each night to see that she had her Grandmother were not experienced any difficulties.

"There's always a crime wave in January", said Wendy's father as he prepared to leave. "It'll be good to have a responsible young man like Greg around the house in case of emergencies".

To which Wendy's mother replied: "Amen".

And indeed it could have been a good thing if Greg's visit had in fact been just a "look in", it **COULD HAVE BEEN** as simple as that. A quick check of all the window padlocks, a friendly and informed comment about the recent bout of humidity to Wendy's Grandmother, and a firm yet amiable handshake for Wendy as he left.

There can be any number of reasons for what happened to destroy the above scenario. My own theory is that the fumes from the airfix glue that Greg had been using to construct a working model of the last plane ever to be piloted by 'tin legs' Bader had somehow travelled to his brain, affecting both his genital control and better judgement. Perhaps it was the recent humidity that Wendy's grandmother took so keen an interest in. Or perhaps — more to the point — it was a simple case of youthful energy, refusing to be harnessed to the wheel of hard work and honest study.

Be that as it may, instead of going to his tech. class that evening, Greg suggested that he stay at the house and watch some television with Wendy whilst her Grandmother studied some naval weather maps in the next room. Both ladies were pleased to have him there as there had been reports of Samoans being seen in the vicinity — often the first sign of an impending wave of sexual harassment.

Time passed, and within a few hours Greg had become so much a part of the furniture that Wendy's grandmother very soon forgot that he was even there. So complacent did she become in fact, that around the time she should have been ushering him out the back door for fear of neighbourhood gossip, she was happily snoozing — her left cheek resting comfortably on a high pressure build-up over Bass Straight.

As Wendy and Greg sat there on the lounge room couch, a choice arose. And, let's not deny it, it's one of those choices that confronts us all — well most of us — from time to time. It was, essentially, a choice between the body and the mind. Would they sit, suitably spaced and with their hands on their laps, as they paid close attention to the interesting, informative and often



endearingly amusing wildlife documentary that was on television that night? Or would they throw caution, decency and a goodly amount of clothing to the wind and commit the act of intercourse?

It is with profound regret that I reveal to you that the latter course was chosen.

Who can say how it all began? I know I can't. A straying hand, an exposed knee, a sly look, a sheepish grin? All I can say is that by the end of the wildlife documentary our two young friends were writhing on the recently shampooed shagpile engrossed in their own brand of animal shenanigans. Naked as the day they were born — but committing an act that only the ravages of adolescence can foster.

I'm never one to harp for overly long on lurid descriptions of sinful positions. However, I think it will serve us well to continue my narrative of these events. In this way, a better and fuller understanding of the heinousness of what occurred will be achieved.

As they tumbled about on the floor in a wide variety of erotic tableaux, Wendy's grandmother awoke from her slumber. Thinking that the frenzied grunting coming from the next room signalled the climax to the wildlife documentary, she decided to join the children and suggest some hot chocolate and a short discussion of the various climatic changes that she had been studying.

That decision was to cost her her life.

Putting her electric wheelchair into fourth gear, she set off towards the lounge room — little knowing that the versailles-style hall mirror and Renoir reproduction beside it would be the last pleasant things that she would see in this life.

She burst in with a chirpy "hello" and at first thought that the room was empty. Her eyesight was not as good as it had once been when she was a submarine spotter at Port Kembla, and she had to search about the room for a few minutes before she actually perceived what, at first, looked like a large, pink amorphous. It was only after she had time to focus on the object that the full truth of the matter hit her — as they say — fair and square between the eyeballs.

I won't go into a prolonged and unnecessary description of what happened to the unfortunate woman after that. Suffice it to say that, regaining the use of her legs for one brief moment, she stood bolt upright, gave a strange, strangled cry and vomitted up her recently installed pacemaker — an occurrence hitherto unrecorded in the annals of Medical history.

It all happened so suddenly. At what a number of my parishoners have informed me is called the moment of climax, the old woman fell on top of the writhing couple, setting off a chain of events which, even a year after the event, it pains me to recall.

So great was the shock of seeing her grandmother drop both dead and on top of her, that Wendy suffered an attack of *Vaginismus* — a sudden, hysterical reaction causing the female parts to contract to such a degree as to firmly entrap the corresponding male organ.

She lost consciousness just as Greg realized what was happening — the shock of this cushioning, to some extent, the sensation of Wendy's grandmother's teeth sinking deep into his right buttock — the result of a final death throw.

Greg at least had the presence of mind to realise that this was not a time for squeemishness. Nor was this a time for a doctor. A man of God, he knew had to be contacted immediately.

Owing to my stand on various moral issues, nine tenths of my incoming phone calls are obscene. So that any call coming after midnight is, understandably, treated by my family and I with the gravest suspicion. Our usual practice is to blow a referee's whistle loudly into the receiver before the Hell-fodder on the other end has a chance to utter his vile expletives.

But this night was different. When the call from Greg came shortly before 1 a.m. I had a certain premonition that it was a legitimate plea for help. It was as if a voice was saying to me: "Put the whistle away, Lorry. You've got a lost little lamb here".

I arrived at Wendy's house an hour later to find a scene that Dante himself would have been hard pressed to imagine.

There was Greg — a shadow of his former self — still with the phone receiver in his hand, firmly adhered to an unconscious Wendy. Further down, Wendy's Grandmother dangled lifelessly — her teeth still sunk into Greg's behind.

It was truly a spectacle that only our more tasteless "modern" artists would see fit to record.

Again, I won't go into the sordid details. I won't mention the arrival of the police rescue squad and the local fire brigade. I won't elucidate on the methods by which the unfortunate trio were disunited. All I will say is that Wendy's Grandmother was buried without her teeth, and a new pancake spatula had to be purchased for the household. Nor will I let slip the name of the mental institution that Greg, Wendy and her parents had to be admitted to. I won't even give the location of the section of the garden that I threw up in — it's probably all washed away by now anyway.

Horrible as it was, there is a lesson to be learnt from all of this. And that is to avoid temptation and occasion when temptation might arise.

If you're a boy:

- * Don't stare for overly long at butcher shop display windows.
- * Try to avoid touching various oils and other lubricants.

If you're a girl:

- * Avoid beaches, discoteques and cucumbers.
- * Take up a sport like horse riding.

In short, it's as simple and as difficult as this: When thoughts of 'doing it' spring to mind —

Just Don't!

Lorry Gestalt
Nicked from Tharunka

THE MARRIAGE OF A.S.I.O.

A.S.I.O. is no longer an agency distinct from the Special Branch, subservient to the executive and reviewable by the judiciary. Such checks and balances are apparently obstacles in the fight against subversion. Instead, these bodies have combined to throw their weight behind A.S.I.O. in a peculiar marriage of all the shapes and forces of the Law. It is a marriage that makes 1984 seem somewhat less than three years away.

A.S.I.O. is a court case away from almost unlimited power.

This remark is not an abstraction, an exaggeration, or an untruth. It is a fact which is readily admitted by the government, the police force and the judiciary in this country.

The past three years have seen the whittling away of the traditional checks and balances to A.S.I.O.'s power. The culmination of this is a High Court judge's decision that the actions of ASIO are immune from almost any judicial review. That decision is currently being appealed against, but follows the pattern of legal subservience to ASIO since 1978.

It is a pattern that has emerged from a paranoid reaction to the Hilton Hotel bombing of 1978. The furor created by such a thing happening in Australia led to a major review of protective security arrangements by Justice Hope, with recommendations being made for increased power for ASIO. These recommendations, intended merely to prevent another act of terrorism, have led to such changes as the government placing the power of ASIO above that of the Minister supposedly controlling it, and the police Special Branches in each state placing all their files and investigative resources at ASIO's disposal.

The 1978-79 ASIO Act, drafted in response to the bombing, gives greatly and unnecessarily increased powers to ASIO. The new definition of subversion is nothing if not excessively broad —

a5 (c) activities directed to promoting violence or hostility between different groups of persons in the Australian community so as to endanger the peace, order or good government of the Commonwealth.

Theoretically then, almost any activity hostilely critical of some group, especially political group, can now come within the scope of ASIO's power. What is worst

is that it is entirely at the discretion of ASIO which activities of which groups it will concern itself with, and there is no recourse or appeal against its action for part II section (8) of the Act places the power of ASIO above that of the Minister. It states:

... the Minister is not empowered to override the opinion of the Director-General a) on the question whether the collection of intelligence by the Organisation concerning a particular individual would, or would not, be justified by reason of its relevance to security. b) on the question whether a communication of intelligence concerning a particular individual would be for a purpose relevant to security; or c) concerning the nature of the advice that should be given by the Organisation to a Minister, Department or authority of the Commonwealth.

In other words, ASIO has unfettered discretion, through the Director-General, as to who it investigates, who it gives its information to, and to a certain extent, what it tells the government. And it can act on a matter which is of absolutely no relevance to national security! That a government should abrogate its power to such an extent and to such a body is extraordinary. That it should be right-wing Liberal Government that should confidently do so is indicative of the right-wing pro-Liberal nature it is confident ASIO has.

Another example of the marriage of the Law is the proposed agreement between ASIO and the Special Branch to exchange security information.

The agreement, expected to be reached next month, follows the advice of Justice Hope in his protection review set up following the Hilton bombing.

ASIO and the State Special Branches have always exchanged information on an unofficial (or even illegal basis) Justice White in his Royal Commission stated that the Special Branch in South Australia actually sells information to ASIO.

The agreement, however, will legitimise and expand the exchange of information, and thereby the power of ASIO.

The main proposal of the agreement is that the bodies exchange material concerning people who have committed, or aided, or are likely to aid acts of espionage, sabotage, terrorism and subversion.

In addition, the agreement proposes that State police inform ASIO about criminal offences committed by people in whom it has a legitimate interest. ASIO,

in turn, can supply the police with information relating to the commission "or intended commission" of any crime which carries maximum sentence of at least three years imprisonment.

The State police forces, then, will become bodies hand-in-glove with an increasingly powerful and independent

right-wing agency, in return for a dissemination of information obtained by, often such illegal methods as phone-tapping, bugging and plants, to police forces. It will become yet another legitimisation by the Law of the excesses of ASIO.

So what has the judiciary been doing while all this has been going on? It has disqualified itself from exercising any control over the actions of ASIO. In October of last year, Justice Wilson held that the operations of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation were shielded by legislation from judicial review.

The decision was made over an application from the Church of Scientology for a High Court order to prohibit ASIO from correlating information about it as it was in no imaginable way a threat to Australians national security. *(cont. next issue maybe)*



someone to talk to.

Talk to a Counsellor about anything that concerns you — study and vocational issues, coping with pressure, personal or social experiences etc. You can have a confidential discussion with a counsellor either by calling in or making an appointment during the day between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or after 5 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

OR PARTICIPATE IN A GROUP PROGRAM

Enquire NOW about special programs focusing on * organizing study * managing stress * building confidence in basic numerical skills * getting more from tutorials * self confidence and assertion * lunchtime meetings for older students and gay people on campus. * people on campus.

Student Counselling

Another page from Thinker

E. Campbell

THE ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CUTS IN EDUCATION FUNDING

Since 1975 there have been fundamental changes in the government's economic policy. The changes have basically been from funding the public sector [education, health welfare, housing, urban and regional development, transport, communication, the arts etc.] to heavily subsidising business — through tax concessions and direct assistance.

Since 1975 education funding has increased by 50% in money terms but has not kept up with inflation (53%) for the period. In addition, however, there has been a massive transfer of funds from the government to non-government sectors. Between 1975/6 and 1980/1 government school funds have been cut by 16.6% and non-government school funds increased by 44.6% in real terms!

Other areas of public spending have fared rather worse: Urban and regional development has been cut by over 75% in money terms since 1975, other areas have been cut by between 20 and 40% — whilst they would have needed 53% increases simply to keep pace with inflation. Meanwhile (surprise, surprise) funding for Industry development and assistance has increased by 75% (in money terms). The government has hugely funded industry:-


Export Expansion Grants — 1978/9 \$20 million; 1980/81 \$200m.

Industrial Research and Development Grants — more than doubled since 1978.

Export Market Development Grants — 1975/6, \$529,000; 1980/1 \$60 million; since 1978 over 50% increase.

Maybe these kinds of grants could be justified if they were helping to expand Australian industry and employment. But the vast majority of grants went to primary producers and transnational corporations. Large grants went to: ALCOA, Japan Food, Kodak, John Lysaght, Readers Digest, Allied Petrochemicals, etc.

Many of these companies received between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Export Markets Development Grants went to: Bellambi Coal, Clutha, Coal and Allied, Peko-Wallsend, Utah Development.



WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE OVERCROWDING, BUT FUNDS ARE SHORT!

S. Roth

These subsidies to industry have been paid for by cuts to the public sector and increases in taxation.

The most substantial tax increases have been borne by individual taxpayers — mainly the average Australian worker. For the rich, tax avoidance now exists on a

... scale as to make personal tax a voluntary tax for the rich non-salary earner. Despite the euphoria which has been given to vertical equity in the design of the Australian income tax system the essential problem is not to make the rich

pay higher rates of tax, or even more tax than the poor, it is to make the rich pay any tax at all." (Professor Hathews, ANU, in The Age, 18.8.80)

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics and Social Research has estimated that this tax avoidance costs the average wage earner between \$3 and \$7 per week.

Meanwhile company profits increase — many companies have seen successive years of record profits. TNT's 1980 profit increased by 72%; MIM Holdings — 99%; Hammersley 85%. These profit increases are typical. A massive redistribution of wealth is going on — from the ordinary taxpayer into the hands of capital. Personal taxation increases while public services decrease; we suffer cutbacks while profits soar and the rich avoid tax; students live in poverty while subsidies to private schools increase.

The government's monetarist rhetoric says we can't afford free tertiary education, we can't afford more teachers, we can't afford a 35 hour week. There is continual reference to cutting down Australia's "big government". In fact the amount of government expenditure as a proportion of the GDP is smaller in Australia than most countries — including West Germany and the USA — "big government" is a myth. In fact we can afford better, more widely available education. The Fraser government should stop transferring money from the taxpayer into the pockets of multinationals and use it instead to provide public services.

This is only part of the picture, (see sources below for more information) — you can do something about it by participating in the AUS Education Fightback Campaign.

Sources: Information for this article came from "Commonwealth Funding: Changes in Government Priorities" by David Widdup (Australian Teachers Federation) in the AUS Education Funding Kit and statistics from the Budget Papers quoted therein.

Poland has a Student Union — why can't we?

For some years the Liberal/NCP Government has been making legislative attacks upon student unions, particularly the right of organisations to belong to the Australian Union of Students. Such attacks have been made at the request of the Australian Liberal Students Federation. Because Liberal students have not been able to "get the numbers" in students' associations or AUS they have chosen the alternative of getting their friends in government to destroy such unions with legislation.

ANU
The federal government amended the ANU Act in late 1979 to try and prevent the Students' Association paying its subscription fees to AUS. That legislation required that any fee money the SA received from the fees collected by the University could only be used in providing amenities and services on campus: the University Council was made responsible for ensuring any General Services Fee (GSF) money was used in such a manner. The Act specifically required that money could

only be paid to a national organization if it was prescribed by Council, and that Council was not allowed to prescribe a general national representative organization. This provision was designed to allow payments to such organisations as the Council of Australian Postgraduates Associations or the National Association of Law Societies but to exclude payments to AUS. Council was thus forced to interpret and administer this clumsy and unwieldy piece of legislation — and has spent a considerable amount of its time since 1979 dealing with the question of student fees. The ANU SA has complied with the legislation but has still been able to pay AUS subscriptions using money it generates other than GSF money. That is, the SA has only used its income from sources other than fees (e.g.

rent from Childers Street Hall, money gained during O-Week etc.) to pay AUS. However, bent as it on getting AUS in any way possible, the government has introduced further legislation.

The New Amendment.

The government has decided to amend yet again the ANU Act (the bill had its second reading in parliament last week). The government has introduced provisions into the ANU Act which require that no money "directly or indirectly" derived from GSF money can be used for anything but provision of amenities or services on campus. That is — up to now the SA has been able to do what it likes with its income from sources other than GSF. Now however the only money the SA will be able to do what it wants with is money that is in no way related to GSF money. Thus because we now use some GSF money in, for instance, the maintenance of Childers St. Hall, any money we get from its rent

will now be regarded as "indirectly derived" from GSF money, and thus not ours to use as we wish.

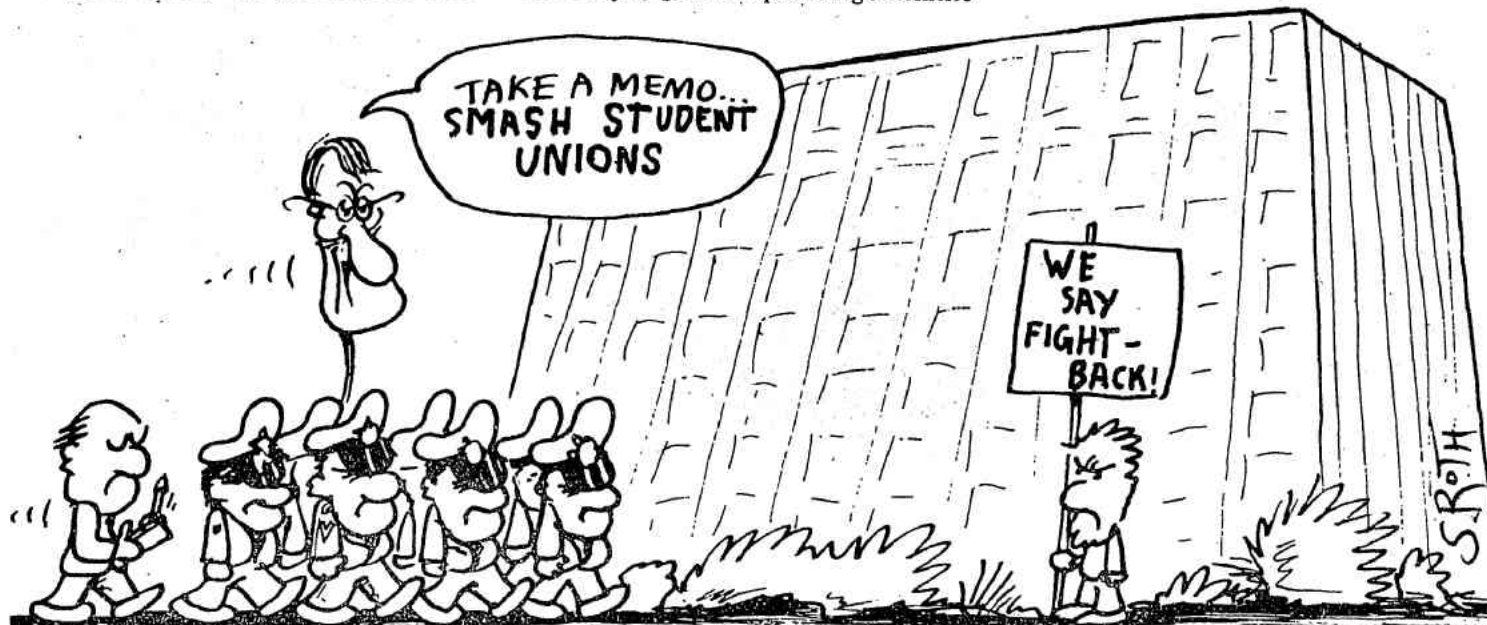
Interference

The government's legislation is unwarranted interference in student organisations. In addition to its ANU legislation (and similar provisions covering the CCAE) the federal government has been urging the Victorian government to introduce legislation there, the West Australian government has done so in that State. There is only one message behind such moves — AUS is an enemy of the government so conservative governments are out to get AUS. There has never been any serious suggestion that the ANU Students' Association is undemocratic, that it rigs ballots or misappropriates funds. The ANU SA is a democratic organization which should have the right to decide what it does with its money. The vast bulk of the SA's money goes into providing amenities

and services for its members. Some money also goes on political representation as part of our national union, more importantly there is contribution to the range of amenities and services that AUS provides to its members directly and indirectly.

That is what the members want — if it was not they could change it at an SA Meeting. It is outrageous that the Fraser government should make such attacks on AUS — it has ridden roughshod over any notions of University autonomy or the right to free association. In these days of vicious education cutbacks AUS has led the fightback — much as the government might try to legislate its opposition out of existence it should realize that students must and will make their voice heard.

resist!



Would The Real AUS Secession Committee Please Stand Up!

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

AUS SECESSION COMMITTEE

On Friday May 29 the Secession Committee held its inaugural meeting after the extreme left was distracted by the advertising of a false meeting venue. A committee member assigned to watch that "meeting" reported that the ploy had succeeded, with the Knotholes bar being invaded by most of the Students' Association Executive and other leftists, as well as a Woroni Editor, a member of the Liberal Society and the entire contingent of undergraduate members of the ANU Council.

At the real meeting, 28 students discussed the secession campaign for nearly an hour. Organisers Barry Markford, Ken O'Peate, Amada Tange and Herb Christianson told the meeting that the Australian Union of Students was costly, ineffective and nothing more than a playground for junior politicians of the right and left. They pointed out that ANU pays \$12,500 to AUS each year while other activities struggle for funds. There was, they said, no evidence of anything being received from that investment other than numerous resolutions, most of them condemning any person or idea not to the left of Fidel Castro.

It was recognised that student interests should be represented at a national level. In this connection, alternatives to AUS were suggested. A council of student union presidents which met periodically could perform the tasks of AUS more effectively and would annul its present remote and isolated nature.

The meeting condemned the manner in which the Left had used its majorities at SA meetings to block referendum proposals by moderate students, and began planning for a referendum which it is hoped may eventuate with the strong support the proposal is currently being lent by AUS Secretary Bronwen Turner and President Jeffrey Dalton. Another meeting was organised.

Peter Smith
Secretary, AUS Secession Committee

AUS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Second NSW Regional Conference of AUS for 1981 was held the weekend before last in Goulburn. Goulburn might seem like an odd choice for an AUS Regional Conference (or any conference!) but it was held there because the Goulburn CAE is in the process of resisting amalgamation with Riverina CAE. It was in order to familiarize delegates with that struggle that the last conference (in Canberra) decided the next should be in Goulburn. As could be expected the major concern of the conference was with the progress of the AUS Education Fightback Campaign, and much of the time was spent discussing what campuses have done thus far and strategies for future action.

The most active area in NSW recently seems to be Armidale. There the CAE has been earmarked for amalgamation with the University of New England [one of the 30 Razor Gang's enforced amalgamations]. In addition there is considerable community concern at the effects of loans and fees on student numbers. The Armidale economy is significantly dependent upon the tertiary education institutions there so not surprisingly the whole community is up in arms about the razor cuts. Ian Sinclair (the local member) is running scared and has promised to save the CAE! Everywhere in the state, from Lismore to Sydney to Goulburn there are activities planned for the AUS Week of Action (the 2nd week of June).

In terms of future strategies there was concern expressed that the campaign be broadened out from merely involving students. It was felt that attempts should be made to work with trade unions to affirm the importance of the public sector - that education, health, welfare, transport, housing etc. are a social right and government has a duty to provide them to all, not just the rich. Any such campaign would have to be a long-term one, one of developing mass opposition to the Fraser government.

In addition to discussing the Education Fightback campaign the Regional Women's Policy Collective met, discussing the effects of the Razor cuts on women, and women working within male-dominated structures. The conference also discussed implications of plant patenting legislation and resolved to find out more about new copyright legislation and its effects.

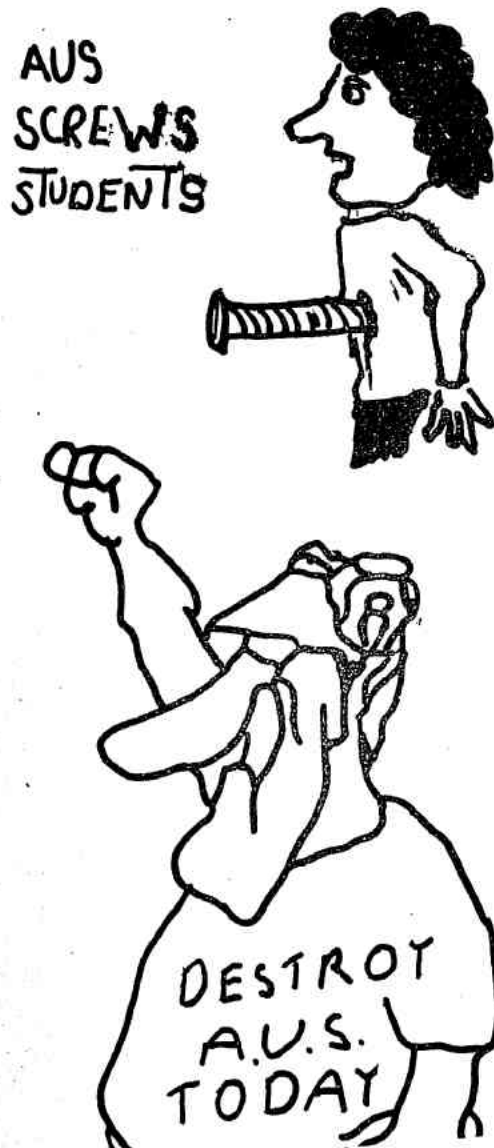
M.R. Bartos.

REPORT OF AUS SECESSION CAMPAIGN

MEETING

This well publicised meeting was attended by nine people, six of whom support AUS and went along to in order to ensure that no misinformation about AUS was being circulated. The work of the Australian Union of Students was discussed and the meeting concluded with several resolutions:

- 1) In the face of current government attacks on education, we recognise the need for a strong national union of students,
- 2) This meeting applauds the Australian Union of Students for its immediate and strong response to the razor gang's attacks on education. AUS's Education Fightback Campaign is a vigorous expression of the needs of all students, and the money the ANUSA has paid to AUS has been usefully spent on this campaign and upon other activities.
- 3) We condemn the Federal Government's recent amendments to the ANU Act, which attempts to prevent the ANUSA making payments to the Australian Union of Students. This legislation is repressive and in particular aims to stifle opposition to the government's education policy.
- 4) This meeting condemns those who have supported the Liberal Government's anti-AUS stance, in particular the Australian Liberal Students' Federation.



A.N.U. UNION
LOST \$339,000

Whether or not you ticked the box on the enrolment form, whether you ever set foot in the place, as a re-enrolling undergraduate \$65 of your "general services

fee" has been paid to the ANU Union. Despite a captive market and an unimpressive range of services at off-campus prices, last year the Union lost a staggering \$339,000. Wouldn't you know it, though, the subsidy from the fee came to \$341,000. Therefore, the Union just about broke even. Phew!

The crucial question is - could it have been done without charging \$65 per student; regardless of his/her actual usage? By way of contrast, at places like McDonalds or the Boomerang Cafe in Mort Street Braddon, you can get inexpensive, tasty food which you can eat from clean tables, without paying \$65 just for the privilege of walking in there. The same goes for entertainment; there are plenty of pubs, clubs, etc. where for either nix (e.g. the CCAE bar) or a small cover charge you can hear really competent musicianship in clean comfortable surroundings, and you don't have to pay an extra \$65.

Why is the fee needed?

The incapability of the Union to run as a business is no surprise, since any monopoly with automatic price increases is under invitation to deliberately waste money. To take an example: Ansett/TAA are overstuffed with underproductive overpaid employees, and they further fiddle their books to overstate their true costs. Rupert Murdoch only has to cry "poor" and we all have to pay his frequent and evergrowing fare increases, while he and all the other hangers-on somehow manage to live comfortably despite their chronic distress. The mechanism is only a little different with the Union - they charge market prices and recoup the costs of their bloated inefficiency through a compulsory subsidy. Even then the Union has an extra weapon: Academic death. While we could always patronise our "excellent" railways instead of flying Transett, if you don't pay your general services fee **THEY THROW YOU OUT OF UNI!!!**

Where is the money going?

A scrutiny of the 1980 accounts of the Union shows that while the bar and the shop were profitable, the refectory and "activities" (i.e. punk bands) were big losers. On top of that there is a large slug for general admin. costs, including a wages bill that might even embarrass the Public Service. Net result: \$339,000 lost before the subsidy.

Who Benefits?

This is a hard question to answer. Certainly not the part-timer who cannot get to use the building, or those who not unwisely choose not to. The place certainly seems to be an oasis for homeless punks, and maybe those who can stomach the \$3.50 "roasts" (or is the meat just dried?) I really don't know - most students don't seem to be getting anything extra or special for their \$65.

campuses are charging (e.g. \$10 p.a. Newcastle Uni). My basic contention is simply this; as a matter of simple equity for students, the Union **COULD** operate, and **SHOULD** operate, wholly on income from services. For starters: this means stopping deliberate wastage and cost padding, and weeding out inefficiencies. The only incentive which could possibly spur this would be a cessation of the compulsory subsidy, which is coming not only from non-users and under-users, but from students who are being asked to pay twice for what they should be able to get at normal prices at the time of usage. By giving the Union any fee money you are giving them carte blanche to waste it, and legitimise their scurrilous claim for even more next year.

by John Newlands

Woroni, Vol.33 No. 7 Page 18

CLASS SOCIETY and WOMEN'S OPPRESSION

Bill Spence's article in the last edition of *Woroni* adds an important dimension to debate over the Women Against Rape Anzac Day March. Spence attempts some sort of class analysis of Australian society and the nature of oppression to show how misguided and ineffective the Anzac Day women were. He raises fundamental questions about the nature of struggle and analysis of power at present. It's a shame however, that he does such a poor job of it. There are basic theoretical, historical and practical flaws in most of what Spence has to say.

Spence's primary assertion is that the repression brought down on Anzac Day was an example of capitalist rather than sexist oppression, because it is class much more than sex that defines sexism. This remains an *assertion* right throughout the article, with Spence obviously considering that he's supported and developed his argument satisfactorily. However, he relies on undefined, oversimplified categorization, unsubstantiated and ahistorical claims, illogical connections, meaningless rhetoric, boring clichés and gross overgeneralisations. Spence is a socialist; therefore his attack through a public forum on others working for real change in the same direction (albeit imperfectly in his eyes), serves to discredit all parties involved when it is done as badly as he did it. I respond with anger on two levels to his article. As one of the "socialist-inclined" that he mentions, I'm appalled at his mechanical and inadequate attempt at a class analysis focusing on women. And at the same time I am angered by his presentation of the events leading up to the Anzac Day action. I'll take the latter point first.

YOU WERE WRONG

Spence proceeds to speak for all women involved in the Anzac Day action. He confidently identifies the different political strains involved and their motivations, and he tells us what happened in our planning meetings — very clever given that he was not at any of the (all-women) meetings. He speaks for the "socialist-inclined" within the collective, saying we wanted men to be allowed to march but we were done-in by an "unacknowledged deal" between the reformists and the separatists who formed a "strained coalition". Spence should know that the "Socialist-inclined" women can speak for themselves, and that this one takes great offence at this misrepresentation of the issue of men's involvement and the discussion which surrounded it. I certainly did not feel like a powerless or conspired against participant and I also have a sharp enough political eye to know that there was no "unacknowledged deal". We spent much time and energy making it clear that different political analyses existed between us and attempting to come to some sort of consensus about how to conduct the action. Spence's analysis of the political line-up within the collective is rather superficial and confused to say the least (not surprising given his absence from any of its planning sessions).

The conspiratorial exclusion of men paranoia is followed in the *same paragraph* by the sentence "The resulting march was so little threat that some sections of the Ruling Class . . . felt it should have been allowed to go on." The implication there of course is that women marching alone are no threat. If that was not Spence's (conscious) intended meaning, then he had better clean up his paragraph and sentence construction. Otherwise, that point leaps out of the page to testify to his own sexism and therefore trivialize his whole attempt at an analysis as nothing more than mere justification for his own inability to cope with the idea of women working together to change their lives and excluding his participation in that.

Another put-down technique used by Spence is quotation marks. He puts words and terms, which he seems to imply describe superficial or contemptuous ideas, inside quotation marks. The most offensive use of this tactic is when he writes about "sisters" (meaning comrades in feminism). He deridingly uses "sisters" when talking about bourgeois, middle-class and ruling class women who claim an allegiance to feminism. We have no definition of feminism (just as we have



no definition of any of the terms he uses) but the only women we seem to have left in what appears to be his class model of Australian society, are workingclass (and perhaps petty-bourgeois) women. The implication is that only women can be *true* feminists. This leads us to examining his theoretical framework.

CLASS AND SEX ANALYSIS

The biggest problem with Spence's article is that nothing is defined. Terms like ruling class, working class, bourgeois, feminism, sexism, etc. etc. are all thrown at us with some sort of arrogant presumption that they only have one possible definition each. We are given very little information about the *relationships* between what appears as static, monolithic categories in some sort of mechanical, all-explainable battle with each other. A dialectical approach is sacrificed in the scramble to assert the primacy of class struggle over all other forms of struggle, and to support this stand with an unassailable theoretical legitimacy.

The connection between class society and women's oppression is neither clear nor substantiated in Spence's article. The best conclusion I can draw from his article is that he sees sex oppression as just another facet of class oppression. Given his rejection of bourgeois and ruling class woman as acceptable feminists because of their class position, Spence leaves working class women (and men he would probably argue) as the only ones who feel the effects of sex-oppression, and who have the right to fight it, and who are fighting it out of honest commitment to changing the whole social and economic structure for the benefit of all.

The Anzac Day Women's March was therefore ineffective according to Spence, because what *he* defined as *real* issues of importance concerning working class women (he might as well speak for them too and complete the attempted ventriloquist act for all Australian women) were not dealt with explicitly by Anzac Day women. It seems rather silly, but apparently it's necessary, to point out that rape and rape in war remain *very real* issues of concern for working class women as well as bourgeois women.

It is quite true that the struggles of working-class women are often around different issues or different conditions within an issue, to those of bourgeois women. But to say that bourgeois because they have money and power have little interest in struggles like wages and conditions in paid work, the availability of abortion and childcare for all women, just has no base in reality. What is the definition of bourgeois being used? If a woman is married to, and financially dependent upon a man who is identified as a member of the bourgeoisie, can she accurately be described as bourgeois? What is the relationship between domestic labour and wage labour? Is the issue her class consciousness? Is it her access to money to pay for say, childcare, that is relevant, and if so, what about the ideology of the family (ethics of housewifery and motherhood etc.) that prevent

her from needing to make use of outside childcare? What about working women? Given the sexual division of labour in the workforce (women in less valued, less rewarded jobs) how many women fit the bill of bourgeois in their own right?

There is no denying that there are women in Australia who can undermine some of the manifestations of women's oppression because of their position in the class structure, but what is the significance of that? They buy themselves *some* freedom from *some* aspects of their sex oppression by wholeheartedly accepting other aspects. They can't buy their way out altogether. And as we all know their experience is not that of the great mass of Australian women.

It is only through an in-depth look at how the two dynamics — class society and women's oppression — work together, where they merge, where they are in contradiction, that we can see how best to fight them. Neither dynamic alone explains the reality of women's lives, nor the reality of other social relationships. Theory which tries to reduce the understanding of that complex reality of women's lives to a single-focused explanation is deficient and misleading. Struggle which does not recognise and organise around that complexity is inadequate, but not useless.

To assert as Spence does that the "natural allies" of working class women are working class men is not historically supportable. In nineteenth century Britain and the US the main protagonists in the introduction of restrictive legislation to exclude women from full participation in industrial work were male trade unionists. In countless equal pay battles, equal job rights campaigns (for women tram drivers in Melbourne, women railway yards workers in Britain and Australia, and on and on and on) women have been sold-out or gone unsupported by male workers and unionists often in alliance with the bosses.

Working class men are also "natural allies" to working class women Spence says because they are in a similar position. What they have in common is that they are exploited by the bosses. They are exploited in different ways however; their security in the job market is different; women have to put up with extra degradations like sexual harassment, inadequate maternity provisions etc.; and how many men do you know who work the "double day" (paid work during the day, domestic work at night — two full shifts).

And as for Spence's last argument on the "natural ally" thesis — that working class men and women are allied because they are married to each other — I can but ask natural allies in *what*? Try telling working class women who are

husbands, or who begrudgingly suffer the burden of the double-day (and there are millions of them), that their husbands are their natural allies in liberating themselves. Working class women have fought for working class women, increasingly over the last ten years with some support from bourgeois women and the

slowly growing body of sympathetic men in all classes.

Spence finished up by saying that the Anzac Day march clearly showed that any fight against sexism is a fight against capitalism. This is old news to many of the women who marched on Anzac Day although Spence refuses to give us credit for any analysis of this. But it does not necessarily follow that "the struggles should be joined" in the way he means. With the sort of analysis Spence (and most other sectarian socialists in Australia) is working on — sexism is a product of capitalism — the idea of women's struggle would be subsumed under the umbrella of class struggle, which is theoretically and practically inadequate for dealing with women's oppression.

Spence wanted the Anzac Day Women's march "broadened" to involve more "ordinary people". What that would have meant was turning the focus away from rape and making civil liberties the central issue. It does not require much thinking to see the connection between the two if one has an analysis of the politics of rape, but if one doesn't (and most people don't) it's very easy to divorce the two. How many times I heard statements like "Oh well, I don't know about this rape business, but I'm all for democracy!" Rape has been displaced too many times from examination. Each of the mechanisms of oppression must be understood or at least given recognition if an overall analysis of oppression and exploitation is to arise. Spence would once again have us give people an excuse to look in another direction.

If this is the beginning of public attacks by the political left on the autonomous women's movement in Canberra (and I fear it might), then I'll be damned if I'm going to sit by and let it degenerate into drivel that does nothing but harm to both sides. There are exciting developments occurring in socialist-feminist theory and practice (not surprisingly mostly drawing its support and stimulation from the women's movement rather than the sectarian left) and the pages of *Woroni* (while obviously not the most useful place to have it) will be infinitely more interesting and stimulating for reporting some of the debate.

Sue McGrath.



POLAND: a diatribe in haste

It is now more than a month since my "Poland: The Right to Self-Determination" appeared in *Woroni*. When I corrected the copy for publication I was aware of two defects in it. The first was that the editors had changed the title from "Polish Workers Seek Their Own Socialism". As the change in emphasis was relatively minor I let it pass. (I am sure that the editors would have consented to restore the original title had I insisted on it.) However, the change is significant insofar as it implies that Poland is or should be aiming for independence from the Soviet Union. My own opinion is that Polish independence is unattainable. The best that can be hoped for is "Finlandization" within the Warsaw Pact. The movement towards a pluralistic system of government will be a drawn-out one and would be jeopardized by explicit anti-Soviet pronouncements such as those emanating from the dissident group ROPCIO.

Since the last *Woroni* the issues relating to Poland have been elucidated by articles appearing in *Dissent* (Winter 1981): Abraham Brumberg's "The Revolt of the Workers", Stefan Brakowski's "A Revolt for the Possible" and Jacek Kuron's "What Next in Poland?". Tim Garton-Ash has continued his series in *The Spectator*, while the January issue of *Encounter* is dominated by an interview with the Polish scholar and historian of Marxism, Leszek Kolakowski, entitled "The Devil in History". *Commentary* has also addressed itself to events in Poland and the article in the February issue by Georgetown University's Walter Laqueur may afford some indication of what Reagan's State Department is thinking. (It probably does think somewhere below the position of Assistant Secretary of State.) In any case, let no-one dismiss Poland from their mind on the ground that there is not sufficient reliable information or informed comment. That no scholarly Soviet or pro-Soviet journal has dared to mention Poland for twelve months should deter only Michael Bartos from thinking about the issue.

Communists

The second defect in my article was all my own fault, though no-one seemed to notice it. I estimated Communist Party membership in Poland at 2-3% of the adult population. This estimate was on the basis of an opinion poll which purported to show that only 3% of Poles would support the ruling Party if free elections were allowed.¹ In fact, just under 10% are members of the Party and this figure should come as no surprise given the privileges that Party members receive. However, 1/2 of these members are now members of Solidarity, two-thirds are Roman Catholics,² and the vast majority join simply for career reasons.³ This latter reason is common to all totalitarian parties and is most strikingly illustrated in the case of the Italian Fascist Party after 1922.⁴

A further point that I should have made in my article concerns the likely nature of a Russian invasion. Since the Russians already have thousands of troops in barracks in Poland they do not have to make their invasion across the frontier; they merely have to shift from the barracks to the streets outside. Thus, NATO has no chance of getting early warning of an invasion.

This brings me to B. Lee Rogers' reply to my article which appeared in

last week's *Woroni*. Rather than address the issues, Rogers asks his readers to "consider Mick Atkinson's political allegiances" and goes on to make the irrelevant and defamatory innuendo that I support the murders in El Salvador. However, he produces no evidence about me other than the colourless allegation that I "claim to support the ALP". (I am a member of three years' standing) Rogers trots out the usual buzz-words and clichés in his first two paragraphs: "Murdoch's propaganda broadsheet" (sic), "American backed atrocities", "Reaganite militarists", "alleged and imaginary excesses of Communists in Poland". One can see the foam gently accruing in the corners of his mouth as he substitutes rote abuse for thought.

Bruce L. Rogers then dismisses my article on the ground that 7 of the 21 footnotes referred to what he calls "Jerk-Journals", whatever that means. These journals are: *The Economist*, *Quadrant*, *The Bulletin*, *The Weekend Australian* and *Problems of Communism*. Though it may bore the reader, I shall shortly re-state the facts for which these sources were cited as authority and invite B. Lee-Rogers to impugn them using his knowledge of Poland.

1. *The Economist* reported the student strike at Lodz University. The strikers made a number of demands including an end to compulsory subjects on Marxism-Leninism. Does Rogers deny the existence of the strike or its aim?⁵
2. The two citations of *Quadrant* were authority for the propositions that 95% of Poles professed Roman Catholicism and that Poland's debt to the West is 20 billion American dollars. Does Rogers seriously dispute either of these facts?
3. *The Bulletin* was quoted for applying Charles Maurras' dichotomy of *pays real/pays legal* to Poland. Dear Bruce, who is Charles Maurras? (clue - ask Dennis Nettle).
4. The one citation from *The Weekend Australian* was from a syndicated article by Irving Kristol. It was about the distinction between authoritarian and totalitarian regimes. Does Rogers deny the existence of such a distinction, or, more to the point, does he have any considered opinion on it? Is Murdoch's proprietorship of *The Australian* probative of the distinction that Kristol argues for?
5. *Problems of Communism* was cited for the fact that Polish G.N.P. fell 2% in 1979 and that 156 factories were represented in the Gdansk "Soviet" on 18 August 1980. Can Rogers correct me on this?

Rogers' final devastating riposte is that my article cannot be believed because a South African magazine once made a point similar to one of mine.

Stalin

On the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 Rogers quotes from Isaac Deutscher's biography of Stalin. Rogers' use of this excellent book should be a warning to all A.N.U. undergraduates of the methods by which the truth can be twisted without resort to obvious lies. Selection and omission do the trick. In his reply Rogers quoted from p.509 of Deutscher to show that the Russians were innocent of aiding the Nazis in their crushing of the Warsaw Uprising. Here is a selection from p.510 which Rogers fortuitously overlooked (perhaps the pages were stuck



An estimated 10,000 protesters march through Warsaw as part of a growing campaign to secure the release of anti-communist activists.

together):

"A sombre and desperate battle developed in which the Poles fought with unique romantic heroism, and the Germans revenged themselves by burning and pulling down street after street and house after house, until the city of Warsaw virtually ceased to exist. The Poles begged for help. Mikolajczyk appealed to Stalin. Stalin's behaviour was extremely strange, to say no more. At first he would not believe the reports about the rising and suspected a *canard*. Then he promised help but failed to give it . . . (I omit two sentences suggesting reasons why the Russians may not have been able to give help) . . . then he did something that sent a shudder of horror through the allied countries. He refused to allow British planes, flying from their bases to drop arms and food to the insurgents, to land on Russian airfields behind the fighting lines . . . (The next four sentences support my contentions) . . . It is difficult to think what political calculation, be it even the most cynical one, accounted for this attitude. He was moved by that unscrupulous rancour and insensible spite of which he had given so much proof during the great purges."⁶

Rogers alludes to this when he writes "Stalin was never keen to allow troops or airmen from western countries into Soviet occupied areas". However Stalin was very eager to greet the British sailors and merchantmen who, after weeks in the Arctic Ocean at the mercy of U-Boats, entered the Russian port of Murmansk with massive loads of munitions for the Red Army. My father was one of them. References to this aid have been removed from Russian history books (see Hendrick Smith's *The Russians*). Does Bruce Rogers still assert that "nobody is forgotten and nothing is forgotten"?

I am sorry that my article attracted such a dismal reply. After reading Bruce Rogers' effort I can only reflect on the truth of Leszek Kolakowski's remark that: "The Soviet Union has no genuine partisans, only people who offer excuses and mitigating circumstances to explain some particularly repugnant aspect of Soviet reality."⁷

FOOTNOTES

1. J. Lukacs in *The New Republic*, 29 November 1980.
2. What an extraordinary world we live in! Two-thirds of the Polish Communist Party belong to a Church in which the encyclical *Divini Redemptoris* (on Atheistic Communism) is of binding authority.
3. *Dissent* Winter 1981, p.31 "Party membership ensures that you will have access to the better things in life, and that your children will have the chance to go to university." "The Czechs and Poland", *The Listener*, 7 May 1981.
4. "The number of public employees in the fasci increased notably during 1926/7. In many fasci they formed over 1/2 the total membership, and in parts of the South as much as 75-80%. The party was invaded by a mass of civil servants, post office clerks, schoolteachers, etc., anxious to protect their careers by joining the dominant party." A. Lyttelton, *The Seizure of Power: Fascism in Italy 1919-1929*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson 1973, pp.304/5.
5. If he denies the strike I would be fascinated to know what the film on the A.B.C. News (Jerk-Television?) three months ago, purporting to show students staging a sit-in on the Lodz campus, was really a film of. Perhaps, as Michael Bartos is wont to allege, Hector Crawford is at it again in the channel seven studios, forging films of Eastern Bloc invasions and dissent. Michael, have you seen Hector's "Afghanistan"? It's a real epic.
6. Ah, the Great Purges, in which more Soviet citizens died than in the whole of World War Two. Do you remember, Bruce?
7. "My Correct Views on Everything", *Socialist Register* 1974, p.1 at p.24.

by Mick Atkinson

COLUMN SEVENTEEN

CANTON: A drastic reduction in the Chinese frog population has forced the Peking Government to establish bans on the eating of frogs legs.

Frogs are widely used in China instead of fly swatters to control insects that damage crops.

Also, they are a favourite in the Cantonese diet and a common aphrodisiac for party bureaucrats.

Hundreds of frogs are being slaughtered each day in some neighbourhoods. The slow moving toad has been especially victimised.

The use of blow fly control agents such as frogs is part of an attempt by the Chinese Government to reduce the use of fly swatters.

Efforts to regenerate the frog population include attempts to build more swamps and increase the price of fly swatters.

Accounts of the use of frogs to control insects date back to 304BC, and give credence to the Chinese adage: "Good Officials Protect the Frog."

WORCESTER, ENGLAND: A racehorse that snatched a Mars Candy Bar from his trainer's pocket and devoured it before winning a £4,000 hurdle race has been disqualified.

An unacceptable level of caffeine and theobromine was found in the horse's blood after a routine test for medications.

Stewards at the race track accepted the Mars Bar explanation and waived a fine, but ordered the horse disqualified.

"That's the most expensive Mars Bar ever," said the trainer Ernie Crumblebar after the hearing.

abortion — facts and fibs!

This is part two of a two part article dealing with methods of contraception and aspects of abortion.

FACTS

1. Abortion was a generally accepted practice for centuries. It was not until the nineteenth century that termination of pregnancy became a "crime" and it was only in 1869 that the Catholic Church adopted a position proscribing all abortions as murder.

2. 47 countries of the world have legalised abortion and in eleven of these abortion is performed on demand.

3. It is 20 times safer to have an abortion in the first 12 weeks than to go to full term and have a baby.

4. Prior to the January 1973 US Supreme Court ruling reforming the country's abortion laws, it was estimated that illegal abortions killed 400 women a year, and 350,000 were hospitalised for damage done by backyard abortions.

5. The British Lane Report which investigated legalised abortion in Britain over a 2½ year period found:

- a) more than half the legal abortions were performed on married women.
- b) Abortions performed on single women under 16 were only 2 per cent of all abortions.
- c) Only 2.5% of women had more than one abortion.
- d) 14% of the women were Catholics.

6. In New York State the Consumers Union reported in 1972 after two years of abortion on demand that there had been 0.01 deaths in 100,000 abortions compared with 37.7 deaths in 100,000 childbirths.

7. A blood test must be done to find out which group you belong to before an abortion is performed. If you are RH negative an anti-D immunoglobulin injection must be given by a doctor within 48 hours of the abortion.

8. The Supreme Court of the US voted in January 1973 that every woman had the right to ask for a termination of pregnancy up to 12 weeks — a decision based on the rights of privacy — this is a civil liberty issue — a matter for herself and her doctor to decide.

9. There is no evidence whatsoever that a previous abortion affects the development of a subsequent child. Abortion does not cause abnormality.

10. Under the New Judge Levine Ruling—Nov. 1971 — abortions are legal in NSW. One doctor only can assess the psychosocial reasons for termination.

FIBS

1. Abortion is dangerous

Besides the obvious argument that the same logic could be applied to such common operations as tonsillectomy (In 1972, 4.2 deaths per 100,000 occurred as a result of abortions, whereas 14 deaths per 100,000 as a result of tonsillectomy)

there are statistics which refute the implications that abortion is more dangerous than childbirth.(see Facts).

2. Legal abortions will lead to permissiveness

This argument is brought up by the moralists who regard sex for any other purpose than procreation as sinful and pregnancy as the punishment for illicit love affairs. It is assumed that all unwanted pregnancies occur outside marriage, but statistics show that more than half of the legal abortions performed are for married women. Many women become pregnant unintentionally due to lack of adequate contraception, for which we have these very moralists to blame.

3. Legal abortion will lead to population decline.

This argument presupposes that women's rights should be subordinated to "the national interest". Women are regarded by such people as merely baby-producing units. If the "national interest" should require a drop in the birth rate would they then advocate compulsory abortion?

4. Legal abortion will mean overcrowded hospitals.

Confinement and childbirth at present take up a lot more hospital time and space than abortion cases. Abortion requires, if any, less than one day or hospitalisation.

5. Abortion on demand denies the father's rights

This sort of argument also relegates women to the position of child-producing units. A man should not be able to force a woman to have his child through some sort of compulsory motherhood.

6. Women will abuse the freedom to have abortions.

This is like saying that people will deliberately get sick to take advantage of free medical care. Women aren't rushing to tally up numerous abortions.

Therese



Sexism & Journalism

As a basis for stating that anti-abortion articles are sexist an adequate definition for sexist behaviour is "the exercise of power, through those institutions and structures, relationships and values that seek to perpetuate the domination of women by men." Sexism, means the continued oppression of women and the refusal to allow women freedom.

As such, anti-abortion articles are inherently sexist, as they support and are part of an ideology that perpetuates women's powerless position in society. They exercise this power through institutions and structures in society, such as the media, and use physical and emotional intimidation, as witnessed by the bombing of abortion clinics in New Zealand. Anti-abortion articles are blatantly sexist, as they deny women the right to control their own reproductive systems and give this right to institutions that are predominantly male controlled. This is totally unrealistic and unjust as men have no knowledge of what it is like to experience a pregnancy, let alone an unwanted pregnancy. Anti-abortion articles encourage such sexist attitudes by denying women the right to choose.

In the past, women have controlled their fertility by means of abortion and contraception. With the advent of mass industrialisation and patriarchy, women's reproductive capacities were

harnessed to serve the interests of the state. Women were relegated to the position of being productive units rather than people to provide factory fodder and cannon fodder for the state.

Today, sexist behaviour, sexist attitudes and sexist material, such as anti-abortion articles perpetuate these discriminatory and inequitable values. What kind of "freedom-of-the-press" is it that denies the freedom of choice to one-half of the population?

Apart from it being a fundamental right of every individual to control their own body there are justifiable reasons why access to safe, legal abortion is necessary.

For as long as there are unwanted pregnancies there will be abortions, safe and legal or not. Backyard abortion will continue. Anyone who recognises the horror of backyard abortion techniques using coathangers, wire, string and other equally horrifying methods would surely support free, safe and legal abortion. Every year, women are dying needlessly as a result of backyard abortion, being the outcome of unwanted pregnancies.

As well as unwanted pregnancies, there are unasked-for pregnancies. Women do not ask for rape, nor do they ask for the pregnancy that may accompany it. As if it were not enough to be raped, so-called "Pro-Lifers" argue that these

victims should suffer further humiliation, degradation and loss of self-esteem by carrying and bearing an outcome of rape.

A false assertion often made by anti-abortion supporters is that if abortion is made legal then women will use abortion as a method of contraception. This statement is totally irrational—women do not desire to have abortions, nor do they wish to suffer the emotional stress or decision-making involved unless it is necessary. Contraceptives have never been 100% effective and as a result of this pregnancies occur even though contraceptives are used. Does this mean that women must be blamed for its inefficiency? Must women suffer at least nine months perhaps 15 years of an unwanted, unplanned life? Women must be given the right to choose. Anti-abortion articles deny this right. In a society that "allows" promiscuity and yet does not provide adequate contraception, then abortion must be made free, legal and safe. It is not simply a 'moral' question, it is a necessity.

A woman may have to relinquish her study, her career or her independence by having to go through with an unwanted pregnancy. Imagine a female student receiving TEAS becoming pregnant? Anti-abortion articles encourage this injustice. But, the injustice goes further, at present only the rich can

afford abortion.

Anti-abortion articles oppress women by supporting and maintaining a system that denies women freedom, even a freedom as personal as controlling their own reproductive processes. Thus, anti-abortion articles are definitely sexist.

With regard to the printing of anti-abortion articles in "Woroni" we recognise that publications regulations aim to carry out SA policy on sexism and whenever possible will try to eliminate sexist articles. By allowing the anti-abortion articles to be published we are carrying out the aims in keeping with the regulations. By opening debate for and against abortion on campus we have envisaged the start of a significant pro-abortion lobbying force. Many people have been made aware of the irrationality and injustice of the anti-abortion stance and have been pressing for the establishment of a pro-abortion society on campus. Yes, we want anti-abortion articles to be published as it is ultimately in the interests of the pro-abortion supporters, the people that give women the freedom to choose for themselves whether or not they want an abortion.

Women on Campus

SO CALLED WESTERN DEMOCRACY and SO CALLED EASTERN TOTALITARIANISM

We have heard an awful lot in recent issues of "Woroni" about Soviet totalitarianism. Andrew Maher has presented us with his pastiche of the last ten years of "Time" magazine. On the whole his treatment of world politics requires little comment except to note that if the world ever corresponded to his vision of a vast game of diplomacy, with Reagan and Brezhnev as the players moving their pieces on a board, then the end has already come - we are all slaves. It is a servile person who advocates such 'freedom' of action for our great world leaders. Thankfully there is the organization of the international working class which will ensure that such analyses will be rid of any explanatory power they still have.

All of this however has been said by way of exception. The real purpose of this essay is to deal with a production of Michael Atkinson's entitled, "Poland, the Right to Self-Determination". The article begins with an attack on Soviet aggression and ends with an attack on sectarianism in the Left. This conclusion of his essay is quite strange when we consider that in the course of his essay a side-swipe is made at a comrade who is accused of writing in a "slap-dash" manner, without any attempt on Atkinson's part to present any evidence to support his contention. He feels that the mere fact that Bruce Rogers quotes from "A Short History of the C.P.S.U." is evidence enough that the latter's historical treatment is not to be taken seriously. This sort of behaviour is totalitarian in the extreme and suggests that Michael Atkinson would be a more fitting subject for an essay on totalitarianism than the Soviet Union. Yet it is this same person who wants only to smother the debate with his opponent, who in the same breath declares himself to be an ardent lover of democracy. Bearing this in mind we shall now turn our intentions to his attacks on totalitarianism, and the alternative of Western democracy which he proposes.

"By totalitarian", Atkinson says, "I mean a one party regime which brooks no rival loyalties of any kind (opposition parties, pressure groups, independent unions), purports to supervise every aspect of social and cultural life and in which no law exists". In Poland, he says, there is no law binding on the government as there is on the Australian Government. In Poland there is not an independent judiciary as there is here. Citizens can find redress through the law in Australia whereas they cannot in Poland.

Such a fond description of our democratic institutions requires a critical reply. It will be shown that Atkinson's comparison does not hold up. Rather than 'totalitarian' being the characteristic of communist society it is in fact, the underlying character of our so-called democratic society. Once this is demonstrated it will be necessary to take a much different approach to so-called eastern totalitarianism than Atkinson's crude impressionistic analysis.

The facts are well known to everyone. Our democratic 'law' has more than a few interesting anomalies. These anomalies spring from the fundamental intention of the law to regard property as the highest social value, higher even than human life. In this country for instance there are people who are dying of asbestosis and asbestos related cancers. These cancers were caused by the criminal neglect of the mining companies CSR and James Hardie towards their workers. Yet these workers can find no legal remedy from our wonderful legal system. Of the 20,000 people who worked at the Wittenoom mine in W.A., 8,000 will die.(1) These people tried to take out a court action against CSR, but the courts told them that the law did not recognise 'group' actions. A woman at the mine, Joan Joosten tried to take an individual action against the company. She spent all of her life savings and went into debt. But, the company had more money and it was able to hire the best lawyers. This allowed the company to prolong the case from one court to another. They could not prove that they were not criminals. The medical facts concerning asbestosis had been known since the beginning of this century, the company was warned several times by officials of the Health Department in W.A. concerning these facts. The company however ignored all warnings because profit was more important than workers' lives. But the legal system allowed CSR to avoid jail. They simply waited for Joan Joosten to die, because when she died the case died with her.

The richest 5% now pay only 20% of total personal tax while twenty years ago they paid 50% of total income tax.

The law does not work for the workers of this country, it works for large companies like CSR. The law does not allow workers to claim their fares to work as a tax deduction but it allows companies like Comalco and Alusuisse to find a legal means for avoiding tax on a massive scale.

Robert Holmes a Court, the chairman of the Bell company recently netted \$16 million in share speculation, tax-free. The rich have other perks too, such as family trusts, race-horse syndicates and recently art 'donations', to avoid paying tax.

Over this growing inequality in our 'democratic' society the law has presided for no other reason than that the lawyers are themselves among that richest 5%. The High Court has institutionalised tax-avoidance while at the same time it has blocked all moves towards a more equal society. It has prevented the nationalisation of the banks and the nationalisation of the insurance companies, while at the same time Chief Justice Barwick has passed decisions in favour of companies in which he was a major shareholder. It ignores the rights of the Aboriginal people to their land, while at the same time

mining companies are given the legal right to drive them into the limbo of this 'democratic' society.

If the workings of the law are supposed to be an example of democracy, then I am against democracy. A law which allows Rupert Murdoch to ignore the 'public interest' provisions of the Broadcasting Act and change the Act to suit himself, is not law but anarchy.

We are not free in this country. To use Atkinson's own expression, ours is a system which "purports to supervise every aspect of social and cultural life and in which no law exists". The law does not work for society but for a class which rules over society. This class controls the access to society. It is not possible to have one's voice heard in the newspapers unless the four barons who own the newspapers decide that it is in their interests. Recently, John Ridley, 'public' relations head of ALCOA said at a secret meeting in the Wentworth Hotel, "I don't believe we should assume that we are necessarily bound by the dictates of public opinion. We have a right to form that opinion". (3) The capitalist class "purports" to have a "right" to determine the way that we think. They advertise their values twenty four hours a day, over television, radio, on bill-boards. Wherever one looks one is surrounded by this supervision.

Out of his own mouth Atkinson proclaims that this society is democratic, whereas we see that by his own definition it is totalitarian. And it is totalitarian not simply in terms of the ideological weapons of the law and of the media which are used to maintain the power of capital. It is totalitarian more fundamentally in terms of the actual production of this capital. For the lawyers, and journalists are only the agents of the capitalists who own the companies. The root of totalitarianism is not so much control over our access to the means of subsistence. Just go and have a look at a factory if you want to see totalitarianism; if you want to see men and women turned into machines and robots. It is this despotism, the despotism of capital over labour which is the seed out of which grow all the other luxuriant fruits and flowers of totalitarianism. It is the need to control the labourer for the means of producing profit for the capitalist which determines the character of our 'democratic' society. The capitalists must make their profits out of the loss of the workers, and in the pursuit of this aim 'democracy' is only a tool. As a result at elections the capitalist class has ensured that the workers are given two choices: say 'Yes' to capitalist exploitation, or say 'Yes' to capitalist exploitation. This is what they call free choice. A worker can also choose not to work for a capitalist if he feels he is being exploited. This is what our 'democrat' of a capitalist at the Perfect Cheese factory in Melbourne said about 'his' migrant workers during a "Four Corners" interview. (4) But those workers could not choose not to eat, not to pay the rent, not to pay high prices or high taxes. As a result the worker is given two choices, say 'Yes' to capitalist exploitation. So the workers choose as they must to work for the capitalist and find that one day they get work and the next day they are out on the street when they are no longer 'profitable'. So the workers rebel and form a union to fight capitalist exploitation and find that they are labelled 'terrorists' who are opposed to 'freedom'

and 'democracy'. The press is then used against the workers, employers try to directly 'influence' union election, as they have done in the recent AMWSU elections. The law is used against the workers as the Arbitration Commission is being used at the behest of the MTIA (Metal Trades Employers) to try and stop the 35 hour week. Apart from this, economic weapons such as inflation are used to transfer workers' incomes back to capitalists. And if by chance a government favourable to the workers such as the Whitlam government is elected, the capitalists use every trick in the book to undermine it, not short of blocking Supply. And if by a further chance a government directly opposed to the capitalists is elected such as the Allende government in Chile; if there is any chance that bourgeois democracy will be turned into real democracy; that 'freedom, equality, and fraternity' will become a reality and not just a farce, then our marvellous 'democrats' urge on the military to drown the people in rivers of blood. Then 'democracy' reveals its true totalitarian face as merely a tool which is indifferently thrown away when it can no longer serve to preserve the power of capital. All this because in this society the one choice you cannot make is 'No' to capitalist exploitation. You can't say 'No' to oppression, or 'No' to inequality.

How is it possible then for Atkinson to surround bourgeois democracy with incense and halos? Atkinson paints such an idyllic picture of the 'democratic' West, standing to one side, so bewildered, so uncomprehending, so pure and virgin white, as the cruel Nazi-Soviet totalitarianism emerges in the East. He says the Western democracies nobly stood by their 'debt of honour' to Poland, but were too 'supine', too complaisant towards the spreading menace. All of this is written as if Western democracy and rule by its laws has nothing to do with totalitarianism. But these assertions are as false in terms of history as they are in terms of the structure of so-called democratic society. He claims that the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact is evidence of how the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany shared a similar totalitarian nature. But it was Nazi Germany and the so-called 'democratic' Allies which shared a similar totalitarian nature.

The historical evidence makes it quite clear that Stalin was forced in the Pact with Hitler because of the unwillingness of the French and British to form a tri-partite alliance with the Soviet Union against Hitler. Such an alliance was the only way that Hitler could have been stopped. But the political negotiations, which only began in 1939 at the eleventh hour because of the intransigent anti-bolshevism of Neville Chamberlain, stalled on the demand that the Soviet Union give support to the West but the refusal of the West to give the Soviet Union support in the event of a German invasion. The military mission of French and British generals was set on the slow boat across the Baltic and never arrived before Hitler invaded Poland.(5)

One can only wonder what was the reason for this suicidal inactivity on the part of the Western nations. The policies adopted by the West towards Nazi Germany and fascist Italy during the 1930's provide the strongest clues. These policies were those of 'non-intervention' and 'appeasement'. Non-intervention meant that Soviet arms were prevented from reaching the democratic, constitutional, republican government in Spain, which was fighting for its life against Franco's fascists. It meant that this government was prevented from even paying for the arms it needed. It meant that volunteers from the Western democracies who wanted to help the Spanish people were hindered in every way and that their ships were sunk while British warships stood by. On the other hand it meant that US bombs, trucks, and fuel were sent to aid Franco's fascists, and that the West turned a blind eye to the German 'Condor Legion' and the four Italian divisions fighting for Franco. The Western democracies were the hand-maidens at the death of democracy and the triumph of fascism in Spain. (6) Appeasement meant that at the same time the Germans were allowed to turn Spain into a 'laboratory' for the blitzkrieg, they were allowed to satisfy their ambitions for 'lebensraum' in the East. Hitler had told the world his intentions in "Mein Kampf" to turn Eastern Europe into a slave state, yet the Western democracies helped him in his ambitions; firstly in the Rhineland in 1932, in Austria in 1938, then the Sudeten and Czechoslovakia in 1939. The West did not want to defend Poland either. Indeed the 'guarantee' of Poland's integrity was only a hasty document put together by Chamberlain to quell the mounting resentment of the British working class. The British government never intended to declare war on Germany. At the very last moment they were trying all sorts of diplomatic stratagems to sacrifice Poland as well without losing face.(7)

All of this suggests strongly that the Western democracies wanted the Nazis to attack the Soviet Union. The French and the British had tried to destroy 'bolshevism' at its birth by invading the Soviet Union in 1919 to protect their 'assets'. This had failed so now the Germans were to do the dirty work. Germany and the Soviet Union were to exhaust each other, said Stalin at the 18th Party Congress in 1939, so that a resurgent West could eventually fill the power vacuum.

One might reply that what is spoken about here are only the motivations, intentions, and decisions or certain subjective personalities, but in fact the hatred of 'bolshevism' and the sympathy with fascism, was a question not simply of the ideological preferences of the ruling class but a question of the basic needs of capital. Eminent professors and journalists were impressed by the German experiment, and the Western press was on the whole favourable to Hitler and Mussolini until at least 1938, but what was decisive was the crisis which capitalism had been going through since 1929.

The Great Depression was caused by a disease endemic to capitalism: the tendency of the rate of profit to decline; more goods are produced than can be sold at a profit. A depression which has the effect of devaluing both goods, machinery and money, cheapens these means which are necessary for production. If markets can be found there is the basis for a new upsurge in profit. But in a stagnant economy it is difficult to find these markets.

How were the capitalists to extricate themselves from this difficulty? The 'experiment' of fascism provide an answer: re-armament. Military spending provides a market which is not subject to supply and demand. On the contrary the state creates an artificial demand in the hope that this will stimulate production in other sectors of industry. In this sense one can say that there were good economic reasons from the point of view of capitalism for the Second World War, since armaments provided huge profits for capitalists and also stimulated the boom that was to occur in all the capitalist countries after the war.(8)

But the capitalists and their political accomplices had other reasons to be attracted by Hitler's Germany. This was due to his 'experiment' in labour control. For while money, goods, and machinery are automatically cheapened by a depression it does not follow that labour is automatically cheapened. Labour can refuse unlike dead objects to be cheapened. Labour can take over the cities, the factories and the towns. It can take over whole countries and abolish at one stroke the cheapening of labour. As a result it was important that the will of labour to resist this process had to be smashed. The collective strength of the labour movement had to be shattered. Again, this was where the so-called democratic nations took a leaf from the Nazi's book. Under the guise of a national 'emergency' dangerous elements such as communists were interned, the rights to strike and organize were curtailed. This also was an important condition in the capitalist countries for the post-war boom.

So if anyone thinks that democracy overthrew fascism in the Second World War they are sadly mistaken. Not only did the Western democracies carry out the economic policies and political policies which were first proposed by fascism as a practical possibility, but the whole character of the 'liberation' of Europe shows how the Allies had continued where the Germans left off. The Germans and Italians had been too idealistic. They had treated fascism as if it were some permanent political form: a thousand year Reich or a new Roman Empire. They did not see that it too is merely a tool in the hands of capitalism. So when the liberators came back to Europe they re-imposed a fascism which had come to its senses: a fascism, that is, which clothes itself as democracy.

As the Germans were being kicked out of Europe the people of the occupied countries began to demand real democracy. The Allies rid them of their illusions. As early as 1943 Churchill moved to destroy democracy in Greece. The partisans had fought against the Germans and driven them out of their country only to find themselves fighting the British and their puppets. The arms which the partisans gave up at the liberation were given by the British to gangs of ex-Nazi collaborators to shoot those same partisans. There is a picture worth remembering of Greek demonstrators shielding themselves behind a hoarding which had printed on it, 'Welcome to Our Great Liberators', while they were being shot at by British soldiers they had welcomed a few months before. In Yugoslavia the British since 1943 supplied arms to the Nazi puppet Rankovic to use against Tito's partisans, (9) Similarly in France and Italy the Allies were uneasy about the predominant influence of the communists in the resistance movements of those countries. This was why it was important to impose a Bonapartist in the form of General de Gaulle in France, and fascist in the form of Marshal Badoglio in Italy. The US wanted stability and we know from the example of Vietnam and Chile and now El Salvador what that means. It means 'moderate', 'democratic' right-wing regimes propped up by economic aid and the CIA. The evidence for CIA involvement in France and Italy after the 'liberation' is now well documented. In France the CIA money and the Corsican Mafia were used to setup free-trade unions. In Italy CIA money funded gangs of strike-breakers. (10) In Greece US planes were used to bomb the last remnants of Greek democracy out of existence.

Now that we have dealt with so-called Western democracy and its intimate relation to totalitarianism it is necessary to consider the other side of the coin. Atkinson gives examples of Soviet aggression towards Poland in 1944. It is true to say that after the war a totalitarian form of the state, was imposed on Poland. It is completely false however to suggest that a totalitarian structure of society, both economic and political as we have in capitalist countries, was imposed over Poland. In Poland capitalist relations of production were abolished. This is decisive because it means that it does not matter how much money a person has it is not possible to use that money to gain control of the means of production, and therefore gain control over labour. Thus totalitarianism cannot take root at the base of society as it does in the Western democracy. It means that the bureaucracy which rules in Poland and the Soviet Union is very different from the capitalist class which controls the levers in our society. The power of this bureaucracy is much more fragile precisely because it can only maintain its power through manipulation and corruption of what even they recognise is state property and not private property. This is why the bureaucrats try to cling to their offices for as long as possible because they are nothing without them. Thus when Khrushchev left the Soviet Government he was retired on the old-age pension, but when Bert Lance left Carter's government he 'retired' to the directorship of one of the largest US banks. The fact remains that the only way that totalitarianism could become cemented, preserved, and legalised in the



social system is if the Soviet Union and Poland restore private property as a social power over society.

This has never been achieved no matter how hard the bureaucrats have tried, though it is the inner rationale of their pre-eminent ideological and political position that the bureaucrats should hanker after a more durable power. The example of China where 'free-trade zones' are being set up at the moment shows how it is possible for the bureaucrats to begin chipping away at the gains of the revolution. Atkinson rightly mentions similar innovations in Poland. But he gets everything entirely wrong when he calls these bureaucrats 'communists'. They are not communists but the remnants from the overthrow of capitalism. On the international scene they have always favoured 'peaceful co-existence' with capitalism rather than the encouragement of world revolution. In Poland we have a specific example of how Edward Gierk and his fellow 'technocrats' have led the Polish economy into disaster through their attempt to solve the problems of a restive working class through force feeding with capitalist credit. They preferred to rely on capitalist banks than on the Polish working class because to have done the latter would have meant making concessions in terms of workers' control and workers' self-management, though it is only greater participation by the workers that could have prevented the enormous wastage and inefficiency that actually occurred. In short, the bureaucrats have dug in their heels against the progress towards communism. So we can only conclude that the fact that Szczepanski, who helped himself to a yacht, a villa, and a large bank account out of the state funds, is being tried for corruption is significant not of any failure of communism, but is significant of the fact that the workers have stopped the back-sliding towards capitalism, and that communism is making progress.

It is utterly false as a result to suggest that the situation in Poland is at all indicative that capitalism offers an alternative to the Polish workers. They have certainly been trodden on in the past: at Poznan in 1956, at Gdansk in 1971, at Radom in 1976, but their attitude seems to be overwhelmingly that of Mateusz Birkut, the hero of Andrzej Wajda's film 'Man of Marble'. Let out of prison in 1956, Birkut does not wildly denounce the Stalinist 'errors and distortions' like the Party hacks. He does not blow with the wind but looks forward to the future. "People", he says, "Sometimes it's been better sometimes it's been worse, but this is our country". In the same way Atkinson should remember that in the same article where Lech Walesa appears with his picture of the Black virgin, he also ridicules our so-called Western democracy with all of its bickering parties which take political issues out of the hands of the workers. Solidarity is a living example of how only direct participation of the workers own organisations in politics can prevent them from being muzzled by the same politicians which at present are trying to muzzle the Australian working class. Solidarity is an example of how the Polish workers do not want our bourgeois law which only guarantees the freedom of the individual and therefore only guarantees that some individuals cannot be free. Such freedom only divides the workers from each other. It leaves the collective organisation of the workers weakened while strengthening in a proportional manner the power of the state. The workers of Poland do not want Michael Atkinson's or Larry Anderson's much vaunted democracy which can only be guaranteed by judges, bureaucrats and politicians that are beyond their control. They don't want our democracy which allows workers to give up their political power once every three years to the state. The workers want to be politicians at the work-place. They want to have

political power twenty four hours a day, because if they don't have collective power and if the defence of this power is not recognised legally by recognition of their right to strike, then a loop-hole will always be left for judges, bureaucrats and politicians to re-impose themselves over society. In this way the situation in Poland only reveals the futility of Atkinson's defence of bourgeois democracy. The workers do not want his petty reformist laws: laws passed by the government to curb the government. The workers want to be the government itself, and with this in view they have begun to take over the Party, so as to make it the cutting edge of the working class rather than the instrument which cuts into the working class. The fact remains that only the bureaucrats in Poland are interested in bourgeois democracy because only they are interested in dividing and weakening the collective strength of the working class. The workers on the other hand have shown that real democracy can only be guaranteed by communism.

Therefore we must not forget that in Poland and the Soviet Union a decisive revolution has already occurred. In Poland we are not back at the stage of the Russian Revolution. Thus when Atkinson thinks he has made a quite telling comparison between Solidarity and the Petrograd Soviet his observations are quite wrong-headed. He needs to be reminded of the answer that two Trotskyists got from the Gdansk ship-yard workers when they asked about the Polish 'revolution'. "You are mistaken. We are not making any revolution here - just settling our affairs. Forgive me, but please leave the ship-yard area at once and don't come back".(11) It seems the Polish workers can do without Atkinson's well wishes. It seems they would kick him out of the ship-yards too for all his 'real' socialism. Solidarity has nothing to do with the overthrow of capitalist class society but with the removal of the bureaucracy which wants to take Poland back to capitalism. Poland at the moment is therefore in a transition stage towards communism, and while it is only a transition stage, it is more advanced than any Western democracy in terms of the political form which are being developed. Poland is moving closer to communism. Gradually the Soviet Union is moving in the same direction. The legacies of Stalin are being dismantled. The bureaucracy is being weakened as the workers grow more educated and assertive. Recently Brezhnev was forced to give concessions to the workers on the production of consumer goods which would never have been given twenty years ago. It was these same policies which were forced on Gierk and the Polish bureaucracy in the 1970's. think it is these events which terrify the capitalists and their supporters like Atkinson. It must be wondered whether these people would not prefer to see Solidarity destroyed by Soviet tanks rather than Poland become an example of how a totalitarian state can be consciously reformed along the path towards communism.

Notes:

1. See Timothy Hall, The Ugly Face of Australian Business.
2. Tribune, 29.4.81
3. Tribune, 6.5.81
4. See "Four Corners, Migrant Women in the Work-force (video in the Chifley)
5. Montgomery Hyde, Stalin, chap. X. The Last Cause, (video in the Chifley).
7. Shirer, The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich,
8. See Ernst Mandel, Late Capitalism, chap. 9
9. Etudes, the Kapetanios, p. 109.
10. On Company Business, (film on CIA).
11. Poland (published by Red Pen Press) p. 9.

TWO DREAMS

Harry Lindgren

The Impossible Dream

NORM Everage is like 90% of his fellow Australians; he seldom reads anything but newspapers and popular periodicals. (Don't take this as a slur on Australians, for the same or worse can be said about any other nationality.)

One morning at breakfast he unwrapped his *Daily Disaster* and stared at it in amazement. The familiar title had been replaced by

DHE DAELI DIZAASTER

and the headline below it was

STRIKERZ DEMAAND WAEJ INKREES

Hastily scanning the paper, he found the same queer spelling throughout. With an effort he could decipher it, but he found the going heavy and slow and he soon gave up. He had had a lot of trouble learning one spelling system, and he quailed at the prospect of learning a second.

His neighbours took in *The Daily Wail* and *The Daily Screech*. To his relief he found that these papers still used the familiar spelling. So he threw away his own paper, and called in at the newsagent's to cancel his subscription to it in favour of one of the others.

Then he woke up.

It could only be a dream, for the proprietors of *The Daily Disaster* would know what Norm Everage's reaction to such a spelling* would certainly be, and not being crazy would never make the suicidal change to it. Nor would those of any other newspaper. Nor would all of them in concert, with radio and TV around.

But even if they were so crazy, it still could only be a dream. Before the paper could reach Norm Everage it would have to be printed, and the compositors if given all that copy in the New Spelling to set would promptly down tools.

But even if the compositors were docile, it still could only be a dream, for with copy in unfamiliar spelling to set they would take a week to set the daily paper.

But even if by a miracle the compositors could do a week's work in a day, it still could only be a dream, for there would be no printer's copy to set. It has to be prepared by journalists and clerical staff, and they too, like the compositors, would down tools or take a week to do a day's work.

The difficulty confronting the compositors, journalists, clerical staff, and for that matter all of us who read and write extensively in our jobs, is that we need to read and write effortlessly. Acquiring this effortless-ness in the present spelling took several years, and acquiring equal effortless-ness in the New Spelling will take at least a year or two. Meanwhile we must get on with our jobs, using the present spelling. It simply can't be done.

How on earth then is Norm Everage to be introduced to the New Spelling? It's no use saying we needn't bother about him; 90% of us are Norm Everages, and no spelling system can be set to be in general use if 90% of us don't know it and use it. This 90% can get to know it only through newspaper and popular periodicals. And these, as we have seen, will never use it.

Worse is to come. Could even the 10% of us who are not Norm Everages, who also read books, get to know it and use it? In the foregoing change "newspaper" to "book". The argument, with only minor changes such as "authors" instead of "journalists", is equally valid.

It should be painfully clear that the New Spelling can't possibly be introduced all at once. Nor can it be introduced gradually, in the sense that the number of publications using it could gradually increase, until all of them do. On the contrary, if there were publications available in both the familiar spelling and an unfamiliar one, the latter would never get a look-in. The number of such publications read by the general public (Norm Everages and others) would remain permanently at zero.

Knowing ones will object that all these difficulties relating to printing have now been swept aside, thanks to the spread of computerized phototypesetting. For Edward Rondthaler, an American pioneer of phototypesetting who supports spelling reform, has made a tape for insertion in the computer of a phototypesetter, which automatically changes spellings in the printer's copy to reformed spellings. All that then remains to be done, by a proofreader for instance, is to choose the appropriate reformed spellings of words with more than one pronunciation, such as "bow", "perfect", "separate". My argument seems to fall to the ground.

But can you insert a tape in Norm Everage? You can't, and that settles it. Using the tape to print what no-one will read gets you nowhere, and *not* using it leaves you as you were.

Reform via the Press and other publications being out, could a clientele for the New Spelling be created by teaching it in schools? But teachers have all the trouble they could crave, teaching the present spelling; they don't want another as well; nor do their pupils. Especially when the other is used nowhere outside school.

What a hopeless outlook! Does it mean that spelling reform is impossible?

The Possible Dream

NORM Everage never suffered the nightmare just described. For all that, it gradually dawned on him that something was afoot with our spelling.

He was used to seeing an occasional spelling mistake, he was used to reading that a prisoner was sent to goal, and that Gallup polls gauge public opinion. He hadn't had much schooling, and was shaky himself at spelling; still, he could see that "goal" and "gauge" were wrong, and he took such mistakes in his stride. What gradually dawned on him was that there was a method behind some of the mistakes.

The two that set him thinking were "eny" and "meny". These are common words, which is why he often noticed these mis-spellings. His curiosity being aroused, he watched out for these words, and he found that they were *always* mis-spelled, that "any" and "many" had given way to "eny" and "meny".

He linked this discovery with a further one that came more slowly, the discovery that "alredy" and "insted" and "said" had given way to "alredy" and "insted" and "sed". Though not an intellectual giant, he could see something common to all these spellings, the letter e. He could also hear something common to the words, the vowel-sound as in "bet".

"Norm," he said to his son who was at primary school, "spell 'hed'."

"H-e-d," replied his son.

"Spell 'sed'."

"S-e-d."

"When I was at school, we were taught to spell them h-e-a-d and s-a-i-d."

"So were we, but this year they changed them to h-e-d and s-e-d."

"Don't you find it hard? First you learn one spelling, and then you have to learn another."

"Aw come off it, Dad, we now spell them the sensible way. It's easy!"

Next day Norm Senior was imbibing refreshment with his friend and old schoolmate Barry. Barry had done well at school and worked in an office, so Norm thought he would know about this spelling business, and he asked him about it.

"They call it SRI," explained Barry, "and it means that wherever you say the vowel in 'bet' you write e. You don't write ie in 'friend' any more, just e. and you don't write ea in 'head' or ai in 'said', agen you just write e. In all these words the sound is the same, so you make the letter the same."

I shall skip the rest of the talk that Norm had with Barry. It suffices to say that when it was over he fully understood the rationale of step-by-step spelling reform. This is not surprising, even though Norm was no scholar, for there's nothing difficult about it. I make do with the tail-end of their talk.

"So you see, Norm, the professors and other littery blokes were agin it. They sed our spelling was part of our priceless cultural heritage. We write a k in 'knife' though we don't say it - that's culture. We say 'pritty' but write 'pretty' - that's more culture."

"These professors," growled Norm.

"----- their ----- culture!"



He continued, "You know yourself, Barry, I wasn't much good at school; the only thing I was at all good at was geography: I liked that; I tried to read books about it; but I had to give up because reading them was too hard for me."

"Well, it's alredy a little easier for your young Norm and my young Barry, and it'll go on getting still easier for them. And in another ten years or so they'll be getting married and having kids, and soon these kids of theirs will be going to school. They'll do a lot better than we did, if they've got anything in them at all. At any rate they won't be held back by problems in reading."

Essence of Foley

SPRIT OF ST LOUIS: Ellen Foley (CBS)

Ellen Foley has probably the most dubious credentials of any female rock artist. Born in St Louis, USA, she began a career as an actress in soap operas. Eventually, Ellen graduated to a bit part in 'Hair' and so to the National Lampoon show, where she met Meatloaf, only a long-haired rissolo at the time.

Meatloaf went on to make 'Bat Out of Hell' and superstar status. As his girlfriend, Ellen Foley was dragged along. He was behind her first album, 'Nightout'.

Musically it was good, solid rock'n'roll. Produced by Ian Hunter and Mick Ronson, with songs by Phil Rambow, Graham Parker and other rockers, Ellen Foley seemed to



be an after-thought. Ironically, the best song on the album, 'We Belong to the Night' was the only one she helped write. But it all seemed to miss the essence of Ellen Foley.

Where the essence of Ellen Foley lies is an interesting question. A recent article from the New Musical Express described her as 'adopting the air of an American dilettante'. She is an actress, she plays an actress. Ellen Foley was regarded as Meatloaf's girlfriend, not as an artist in her own right. But it was a role she seemed to choose.

On her second album *Spirit of St Louis* the notes state 'Produced by my Boyfriend'. But this time he is Mick Jones from the Clash. Noticing that six of the twelve songs are written by Strummer/Jones, suspicious creep in; is this another album by Ellen's boyfriend? Three more tracks are by Tymon Dogg, folksinger and mate of Strummer's; is *Spirit of St Louis* just the Clash with female vocalist?

No. More digging reveals that as well as the Clash, Ian Dury's Blockheads have made a major contribution to the sound - a new dimension emerges. And the songs have been written for, almost about Ellen Foley.

However it was achieved, Ms Foley has drawn together some of England's most interesting musicians to produce a dramatic, often poignant album.

Whatever her gloss, whatever her reliance on a 'boyfriend', somewhere there is a real talent in Ellen Foley. To begin she has a warm, round, clear voice. A pure voice is not highly regarded on rock, but occasionally it is a delight.

Few women could do justice to Piaf's song 'My Legionnaire', vocally and emotionally. Ellen Foley interprets the songs naturally from the simple to the surreal 'Death of Salvador Dali's Psychoanalyst'.

As on her first album one song is written by Ms Foley, 'Phrases of Travel', and again it is the best. It seem to be about her move from St Louis to London, like Charles Lindberg in his plane, the *Spirit of St Louis* - the first trans-Atlantic flight.

This album is very melodic and easy to listen to, but it never resorts to schmaltz. The songs are small, polished cameos for Ellen Foley, the actress. She plays a whore, a housewife, the lover of a man condemned to death.

The musicians shift into a different gear with each song like polished cabaret performers. But without ever losing interest always adding to, extending the piece. From the up tempo cruising of 'MPH' they move to the very slow 'My Legionnaire' and the superb sunny afternoon atmosphere of 'Beautiful Waste of Time'.

Spirit of St Louis is a fascinating album. Ellen Foley, the Clash and the Blockheads seem an unlikely combination, and their sum is certainly a change from the parts. But Ellen Foley's new album is well made, interesting and very enjoyable.

-ANNE JONES

flashback into

WORONI 1965

RAIDS ON BRUCE HALL - KOKODA QUARTERS

On Saturday night a group of University students raided Kokoda Quarters, Duntroon and burnt an old car belonging to a student on the Duntroon parade ground. Shortly afterwards 150 cadets retaliated and raided Bruce Hall. Damage to buildings and personal property was sustained in both raids.

The raid at Kokoda Quarters took place at 6.30pm while cadets were at tea. About 35 students entered Duntroon unnoticed despite the careful watch kept by cadets throughout Bush Week.

The students placed flour in rooms of Kokoda Quarters and also upturned beds in rooms.

No damage was done to the buildings, but some lecture notes and personal belongings were marked and dis-arrayed.

The total estimated damage was not high. This was mainly the cost of having the uniforms which were marked with flour dry-cleaned.

At the same time several students drove an old car onto the parade ground and set fire to it. The whole party then retreated from the scene.

The fire in the car was believed to be extinguished by the cadets in 23 seconds, the normal fire-drill time at Duntroon.

A little after 7pm 200 cadets massed at the Haydon-Allen buildings and advanced down University Avenue towards Bruce Hall singing Army songs.

Residents of Bruce Hall locked the doors of their rooms on hearing the cadets approaching and then gathered at the front of Bruce Hall and attempted to repulse the cadets with fire hoses and physical combat, but the situation grew rapidly out of hand.

Cadets took the fire hoses into Bruce Hall and sprayed water in the corridors and the rooms.

At the same time rooms were broken into and the furniture upturned.

In all, about 20 rooms had the locks and doors damaged.

Carpets and tiles were also damaged by the water and three windows were broken during skirmishes. Nearly all damage was to Bruce Hall itself and students suffered negligible damage to personal belongings.

Undoubtedly the cadets' raids on the University was accentuated by previous raids on Duntroon on Thursday and Friday nights.

In one of these raids, paint was splashed on the Memorial Gates to Duntroon. It is believed that University students were not solely responsible for these raids.

CONTRACEPTIVE BREAKTHROUGH!

Australian scientists have developed a revolutionary new system of contraception. It is based on an entirely different concept from present methods. Its use requires no chemical intake whatever. It is cheap and highly effective.

The system involves the use of pylon rays. These rays, when applied, have the effect of temporary sterilization. There are no other effects whatever.

A special ray gun has been developed to deliver the pylon rays. It is a small instrument which can be carried in the purse or pocket. It is powered by normal torch batteries. Larger instruments are being developed which will be able to set an exact limit to the period of sterilization. By setting a dial, its user can determine the exact time he or she wishes to be sterile for. Conventional models will give effective sterilization for 24 hours.

It is believed that this new method will meet the approval of The Catholic Church. Many Catholics have been attending Mass daily praying for the guidance of the Holy Father.

Demand has been so high that the company manufacturing the pylon guns has been forced to start sales before full experimental results on the gun's claims have been gathered. So far the tests are only in their 12th week.

100 males and 100 females have been using the device before contact with a control group of 100 of each sex, who have not used the device. So far the males have a score of 100% no pregnancies. However the females' score is 20 out of 200 pregnant. It is thought that some modifications will have to be made.

ALICE BANNED

Melbourne, Thursday - Under threat of prosecution Melbourne booksellers have withdrawn from sale all copies of "Alice in Wonderland". This follows a lightning raid by the Victorian Vice Squad during which one hundred copies of the offensive work were seized.

A government spokesman described the work as obscene. "How else can you refer to a story of an innocent girl's descent into a weird and depraved underworld?" he asked. "This tale of obscenities and desire is not the sort of thing I would want my teenage daughter to read."

FOOTNOTE: Melbourne booksellers do not appear willing to challenge the implied ban on such a controversial work.

FILM REVIEW

'TESS'

TESS: directed by Roman Polanski. Starring Nastassia Kinski. Hoyts Regent.

It takes only a few minutes to realize that this film is visually absorbing. And though it lacks the rococo extravagance of works like 'Barry Lyndon', it more than compensates with an elegance and depth of commitment which saves it from becoming too syrupy. This is a screen adaptation of Thomas Hardy's classic about love and morality. Only a handful of directors have been able to transform major literary works onto the screen by organising a dramatic structure with precision and Roman Polanski manages to join their ranks.

Tess (Nastassia Kinski) is a young woman who believes in her destiny as a descendant from noble stock, in order to break away from stifling poverty. Being a proper d'Urberville, she leaves home to work with her wealthy relatives, only to learn that their title was bought. Her naivete is exploited by Alec (Leigh Lawson) who relentlessly pursues Tess to gain her favours but when she does not reciprocate, he resorts to rape. She returns home to have his child who is too frail to survive infancy.



Since this all happens in Victorian England, such an occurrence provides a starting point for Tess's gradual degradation. While she is working on a dairy farm she meets Angel (Peter Firth) with whom she falls in love. After consenting to marry him she unburdens herself to him about her past, but he becomes morally indignant. He is also a socialist and tells Tess: "I thought you were a child of nature but you turned out to be the last in the line of

degenerate aristocrats.' Incapable of staying with Tess, Angel leaves the country, while she faces disillusionment and decline without him.

The litany of petit-bourgeois 'don'ts' reverberates throughout some of the footage and one gets the impression that any social comment pertaining to Victorian society plays a secondary role to the moralistic message. Roman Polanski left the Hollywood movie colony for a number of reasons

and after collaborating on the screenplay he has proved once and for all that films of quality which are commercially feasible as well, are not the exclusive domain of Hollywood.

Polanski's vision of Victorian England hugs the spectator like a warm bath, pours over him like a stream of consciousness, gently submerges him in a seamless flood of images.

He has the ability to represent literary figures labouring under duress without the temptation to editorialise on their imperfections. This is a picture of both the inner and outer struggles of the human condition, which is compassionate and personal.

The camerawork is outstanding. The interior shots are soothing and subdued as well as impeccably tasteful in their gentle colour and spatial judgements. The exterior shots have lost the rigour of almost mathematically calculated composition which characterizes other period pieces.

If the visual component is pleasant, unfortunately the treatment of Tess is not. The analysis of her struggle for love and tenderness seems at times too facile and contrived, the tone too mordant. Polanski has the heart of an impassioned medieval moralist; it is such moralistic disapproval, that unconcealed sense of indignation which separates his work from other directors.

The vagaries and vicissitudes of Tess's life are competently handled by 20 year old Nastassia, daughter of Klaus Kinski the German actor. Her demure and alluring presence makes this long film endurable for audiences who sit through 190 minutes of an unfolding story about the waywardness of Victorian life in England.

-STEFAN LIPOVICH

While researching a series of newspaper articles on "Health versus Medicine", journalist Martin Weitz was appalled by what he found. Here, surely, was the Watergate of medicine, ripe for any enterprising journalist. Hidden in the learned discussions of proliferating medical journals was an epidemic of doctor induced disease.

In his introduction Weitz reveals for example that - at least two out of every five patients receiving drugs from their doctors suffer from side effects.

- Identical drugs sold in Britain and the USA contain totally contradictory information on side effects. Many over-the-counter medicines on sale today, cannot pass current safety regulations. Thousands of prescription only drugs have never been shown to be effective.

- 12,000 people are killed each year from unnecessary surgery in the USA, more than the total number of Americans who died in the Korean and Vietnamese wars.

- One in every twelve admissions to hospital is caused by the side effects of treatment; and life expectancy has not improved since 1950 for men aged over 45.

- At least one in every 10 patients admitted to hospital suffers from the side effects of the treatment received there.

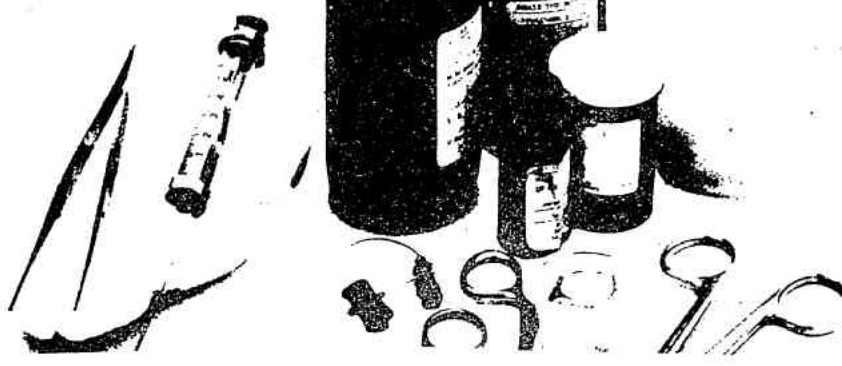
To Weitz, the left hand of medicine was offering health, while the right hand caused more disease. Perhaps most alarming of all was that the statistics, although well established, were not being brought to the attention of the general public, who as consumers, must face the consequences. In an attempt to bridge this gap of inaccessibility, Weitz wrote "Health Shock" which he appropriately subtitled "a guide to ineffective and hazardous medical treatment".

The book is not meant as a dictionary of symptoms, treatment, or disease complexes, but is designed to increase consumer awareness. Thus the patient prescribed a steroid cream for his rash may be able to ask a few intelligent questions: "Is it dangerous for me to use this cream for prolonged periods? Is my rash caused by the cream? Is it a rebound phenomenon that when I cease the medication the rash gets worse?" And so on.

In a section entitled "How to approach your doctor after reading Health Shock", Weitz suggests that you encourage discussion of your condition with your doctor. The aim is not to antagonize but to question. If the doctor takes offence, the consumer can always exercise his right to change doctors. And armed with "Health Shock", the reader is able to make a fairly accurate and intelligent decision about the competence of his doctor.

"Health Shock" is divided into nine sections. Section one sets the scene. It reveals that 50 per cent of patients don't take the pills they are prescribed (why?), that compliance is related to the amount of interest the doctor takes in "the patient's" social life and that consultants have a

HEALTH SHOCK



'12,000 people are killed each year from unnecessary surgery in the USA, more than the total number of Americans who died in the Korean and Vietnamese wars'

greater placebo effect, merely because of increased status. Hospitals are shown to be anxiety provoking institutions where recovery is often impeded by withholding information from the patient.

Section two is entitled "Hospital Hazards" and discusses the mismanagement of heart attacks, general considerations for surgery, the risks of anaesthetics and the broad risks of surgery. A few specious passages from this section follow: "We would never put a judge on the bench under condition such that he might be influenced by pecuniary considerations. Suppose that if the judge were to hand down one decision he got \$5,000 and if he decided the other way he got nothing. But we allow the private practitioner to face this sort of temptation. (Dr Richard Cabot, former Harvard Professor of Medicine)"

"The number of admissions and the length of time they stayed in hospital increased according to the number of available beds. A new Parkinson's Law operates: sickness expands to fill the beds available."

"How many anaesthetists can remember near-misses due to (aircraft) pilot error during periods of personal fatigue? And how many types of anaesthetic machines would be grounded by order, if they were flying machines?"

Section three then systematically examines a list of popular operations ranging from abortion, through appendicectomy to hernias and coronary bypass surgery. The variety of procedures, their indications, complications and efficacy are all discussed. There is an excellent review of breast cancer therapy, for instance, which would certainly help clarify the maze of information confronting the agonized woman with breast cancer.

Section four deals with child birth. It reveals that only a small minority of high-risk mothers actually need to have hospitalization to have their babies, yet in Britain 97 per cent of babies are born in hospital. In countries such as Holland and Finland, 70 per cent of babies are delivered at home, yet they have a much lower rate of still birth. Weitz then goes on to list the risk factors which would indicate benefit from hospitalized birth. The hazards of epidural anaesthetic, drug induced birth, foetal monitoring, and episiotomy are also discussed.

Section five reviews the use and abuse of medical tests.

Section six is devoted to dentistry. Weitz quotes evidence to show that six monthly check ups are unnecessary and that in fact, regular attenders have had more teeth filled

than irregular attenders have had decayed. He reaches the conclusion that it is necessary for 12-16 year olds to have a check-up only every 12 months and for those over 16, every eighteen months. The hazards of unnecessary dental X rays (often performed with poor, leaky equipment) are discussed and the fluoride controversy expounded.

Section seven is everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask about contraception. The effectiveness of the top nine methods of contraception are presented in a comparative table. The IUD, oral contraceptives, depoprovera and the "morning-after" pill are discussed in more detail.

Section eight entitled "drugs prescribed by doctors" is the largest section of the book and systematically examines most of the commonly prescribed drugs. Side effects, drug interactions, efficacy and long-term effects are closely scrutinized.

The final section is devoted to "some of our favourite over-the-counter drugs". Featured in the section are useless cold remedies, pain killers, and the vitamin business.

There are certainly a few contentious statements in "Health Shock". For example, the discussion on anti-hypertensive drugs suggests that there is no benefit in treating moderately elevated blood pressure. Although it is true that in patients with diastolic pressures of 90-95 mm Hg morbidity has not been shown to be significantly reduced by adequate therapy this may simply mean that other risk factors for atherosclerotic complications such as high blood fats (hyperlipoproteinaemia) and cigarette smoking dilute the effect of mild hypertension and that a very large population must be treated for a long period of time before significance is achieved. Similarly, the oral diabetic treatment agents known as the aniphonylureas are dismissed as providing no long term effect. This conclusion is based on the University Group Diabetes Program (UGDP) whose validity has been repeatedly questioned. There are many similar examples where Weitz has chosen one side without mentioning there is an opposing argument.

However, provided "Health Shock" is used as a stimulus to question, it can only improve the standard of health care. Unfortunately, one of the inherent dangers of a book such as this, is that a few people will take its word as gospel and embark on a programme of self diagnosis and treatment. This is obviously a dangerous course, but hopefully minimized by Weitz's admonitions in his introduction.

"Health Shock" is a book designed to shock. It is well researched and for the most part, states what is now established fact in the medical journals. It contains a proportion of "alarmist" statements that are still controversial. Nevertheless, it is important that these areas be exposed for discussion and if "Health Shock" provokes controversy, all the better.

HEALTH SHOCK by Martin Weitz: Reed.

-DARYL HEWSON

DONALD HORNE **0**
WINNER
TAKE
ALL



WINNER TAKE ALL, by Donald Horne. Published by Penguin Books, \$2.95

On reading Horne's latest book, one wonders why he bothered to write it at all. It's so obviously a quickie, a little pot-boiler put out to exploit the market for books examining the 1980 federal election. At 132 pages it's more a pamphlet than a book.

It is the only book to be published so far about last year's federal election which is significant. Most others contemplating the idea seem to have abandoned the notion. Three more years of Fraser is more likely to turn journals to the bottle, rather than the typewriter.

Horne's interest in publishing at this time probably has more to do with his lack of perception about the future of Australia than anything else. He admits he originally planned to put out a short book entitled 'Why Labor Won'. Before polling day he had even sketched out a framework of ten chapters. This didn't take long, as the prospect of Labor win-

ning the 1980 election had been in his mind since 1977. As he candidly puts it, he had written, "If the Liberals win this election (1977), it could be the last election they win this century." That piece of columnist's hyperbole appeared in the 'Australian', and like the planned title of his current book, the prediction proved hopelessly inaccurate. With Horne's track record, you wonder why he persevered with the proposed book at all.

Anne Summers, reviewing 'Winner Take All' in the 'Australian Financial Review' said that prior to the last election a number of writers and journalists were approached by publishers to write books about the election, but most of them were only interested in books that described a Labor victory. Undeterred by the election result Horne went ahead. Presumably he changed the chapter outline.

Why so cynical about a colourful writer whose sympathies many of us share? Basically, I suspect that many people like Horne, because he agrees with them. Once he edited Frank Parker's conservative 'Bulletin', now he shares the platform at republican

rallies with such figures as Patrick White, Manning Clark and Gough Whitlam. Clearly the events of November '75 have had a profound effect on his thinking. Instead of becoming progressively more conservative with age, as is common, Horne seems to have struck out in the opposite direction. I have the same doubts about Horne that I've harboured for years about Kurt Vonnegut. Is it mostly the skill of the writer that people appreciate, or is it that he reinforces their prejudices?

For those who regularly read the columns of the 'Age', 'National Times' or the 'Australian Financial Review', Horne presents little new. Those seeking to understand why the Liberals won would probably do better to read Max Walsh's 'Poor Little Rich Country' written before the election. While Walsh may not have as colourful a turn of phrase, or as optimistic a message for those sympathetic to Labor, he's less superficial and ultimately more relevant than Horne.

'Winner Take All' is unlikely to be remembered up there with 'The Lucky Country' in years to come.

-HAYDN THOMPSON

keep the fat frying

OK . . . OK . . . For those who think they've had enough of el worto galloping to all the ends of the earth I bring you down to earth with a Territory special PICKLED PORK. It takes about four years to make a really good brew for pickled pork and its always better if the imbibers have had a little bit longer than that to think about it before they eat it. Get a large oak barrel. One with strong iron hoops around to hold it together when the going gets really rough. Next tell everyone that you're going to make it; but don't tell them when. Then suddenly, throw yourself into it after there have been a lot of complaints about your assistant chefs. First thing you must do is get your hands really dirty. But don't worry because you aren't too experienced as a chef and even if the apprentices make mistakes just say . . . "give us a chance", because everyone understands when they are waiting for such a good meal. Right. Next up is the hard bit. Explain to everyone that you are making PICKLED PORK but remember don't in any way let them know the secret ingredients. These are of course plenty of salt to rub into the pig's wounds and a lot of water in which he can drown his sorrows. So. You have a large oaken cask full with salty water. Wash your hands



in it. Throw in a wrapped tied hamstrung piece of pork from about the shoulders up. And let it soak. Really let it soak in. Don't give it a chance. If it bobs up to the top of the cask at all smash it hard with a big stick. The last thing anyone would want to see is a form of opposition floating around in your chance to control a beauti-

ful recipe. Your own recipe all your own. Any way the tendency is for people to let things stew in their own juices. You should agree to this and encourage them to forget about the juicy piece of pork you have pickling away. Encourage them to forget for another four years and then when you've nearly nodded off, stand back and shout at them again "PICKLED PORK TIME AGAIN" give them a chance to mill around the barrel throwing in the occasional carrot and red herring and then quick as a flash before hardly anyone has had a chance to roll up, eat the lot and say "better luck next time". Remember to get the right results you have to be willing to spend a lot of money on your ingredients. Here are one or two extra tips. After you've shouted "PICKLED PORK TIME AGAIN" and won all the bets quickly drink a large bottle of scotch and retire to your bedroom. Tell your friends you've got the flu. Next quickly dice the said sorry piece of pork, toss it in and shuffle it around so quickly that the average person won't have a chance to know what is going on. Serve it while it's hot because if you give it a chance to cool down at all, people might realise what it really is and either refuse to eat it or choke on it while it's going down.

MACROBIOTICS

The term 'Macrobiotics' has become well ingrained in the vocabulary of those interested in alternative medicine and natural healing. But there is still confusion as to what it really means. Is it a religious cult? A dangerous food fad? Or a way of establishing good health and a more sane approach to living?

Definition

The word 'macrobiotics' was first applied by George Ohsawa, a 20th-century practitioner of Oriental Medicine and Philosophy, to an approach to diet originating in the Far East some 4,000 years ago. The dietary principles were not new, but in fact basic to all traditional medicine. They are easy to understand and to apply. 'Macrobiotics' comes from the Greek, Macro (large) and Bios (life), meaning a way of living life to the fullest to develop health and understanding.

Is There a Perfect Diet for Everyone?

No. We are individuals, each with a unique physical make-up and development, each with different needs. Each individual requires a diet appropriate to his or her unique constitution, condition, kind of work, and living environment. For us to find our own diet we need to know some general principles - and to use some common sense.

The Principal Food

Simplicity in diet has long been recognized as a major factor in the creation and maintenance of good health. If we combine too many foods the ability of the body to digest and metabolise them is impaired. If we look to the past we discover that all over the world, in all cultures, there was always one principal food, supplemented by smaller portions of complementary foods to fill the needs of the individual. In over 90% of the world this principal food was cereal grains. In many cultures the cereal grains were revered as special gifts of the gods, and the planting and harvesting of grains were the high points of the year.

Eating According to the Seasons

For most people a diet of only grains is not enough: we need more variety. The best supplements are furnished by the vegetable kingdom. But which foods to choose and when to use them can be a problem. The best guide is the yearly vegetal cycle. One of the advantages of whole grains is that they store well without chemical preservatives. Grains

found in archeological diggings have been able to sprout even after thousands of years. Although grains - and beans and seeds - can be dried and stored for a long time, most other vegetable foods have a relatively short life. Grains, beans, and seeds can therefore be used all year round; vegetables should be consumed in the season in which they grow. This is common sense. Chemical preservatives, refrigeration, and fast transportation have lured us away from our traditional pattern of eating according to the seasons. Yet every aspect of the natural environment is interwoven: there is an intimate relationship between every living thing. The vegetable kingdom is the source of our existence. It produces the kinds of food we need at the time we need them. In the Spring and Summer when the weather is hot and dry grow foods that are crisp, juicy, and cooling. In the Autumn and Winter when the weather is cold and wet grow the more hearty root vegetables and grains that are warming. The breaking of this natural cycle is one of the reasons for the general poor health of our society.

Yin and Yang

All traditional medicine is based upon an understanding of the laws of nature. In the Orient these laws were conceived as the dynamic relationship of opposing forces in the universe. The names given to the two forces were YIN and YANG. All energy tends to move in a spiralic pattern. Yin was the name given to that force which is expansive in nature, yang to that force which is contractive. Yin is then that which is dark, cold, centrifugal; yang that which is bright, hot, centripetal. These two opposing forces rule all

things and attempt to move towards harmony or balance. Within the human body health is established and maintained by a proper balance of yin and yang foods.

There are many ways to classify foods into yin and yang. The first way is through the vegetal cycle mentioned above. Foods that grow in the summer, which is hot and dry (yang) tend to be more yin; those that grow in the autumn and winter, which are cold and wet (yin) tend to be more yang. We can also consider the geographical location of origin of foods. Foods which originate in tropical climates (more yang) are generally yin; they are often acidic or acid producing, and their growth is quick and abundant. Foods which originate in colder climates (yin) are generally yang; they are more alkaline, and grow more slowly and closer to the ground.

Another way of classifying foods is by their size and water content. Foods which are large and watery are more yin, and foods which are smaller, more compact, and less watery are more yang. Many more ways of classification can be found in the books listed at the end of this Note. Using yin and yang in the selection of our food is a means of establishing harmony in the body and a way to better understand the environment and how we relate to it.

What is Balance

The challenge of the Macrobiotic diet is to find the proper balance of yin and yang foods for yourself. This proper balance will vary from person to person. The first thing to do in trying to establish a good balance is to eliminate the foods which lie in the extremes. Sugar, honey, citrus fruits (in this climate),

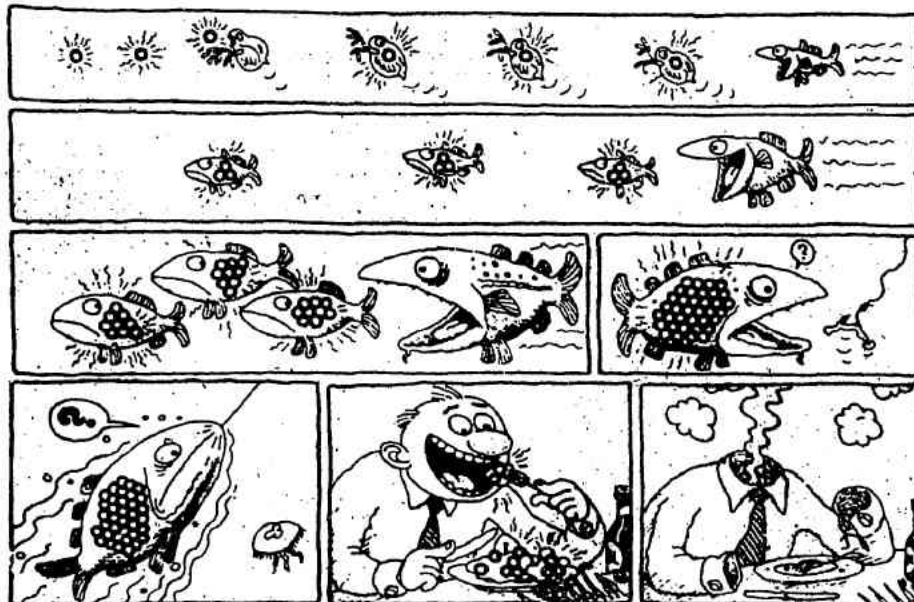
drugs and chemicals are all extremely yin, as are the nightshades, potato and tomato. Foods which are extremely yang are the red meats, beef, pork and lamb. While you are eliminating these foods you can start to increase the proportions of whole grains, vegetables, beans, sea vegetables and seeds that you eat. When you have done this you can then start to try and establish the proportions of each food you should be eating and the type of preparation that should be used. Your balance will relate to the weather and your activity. When your diet is balanced you will begin to feel more energetic, mentally clear and experience a greater degree of sensitivity.

In making balance don't forget the seasons. In hot weather (yang) eat a little more yin food: salad, fruit, leafy vegetables, etc. In the cold and damp months (yin), use those foods which are more yang: more grains, root vegetables, salty foods, and fish if you desire some animal food. If you are doing hard physical activity you will need more food and your eating can be a little more yang. If you are doing more mental work your diet can be slightly more yin, and less food is needed.

Freedom and Gratitude

We are born on this earth to enjoy our lives and to develop our potentials. We owe our existence to the sun, the rain, the soil, the air, the food we eat. By becoming more aware of our relationship with the elements and experiencing the effects they have on our being we can begin to develop the gratitude for our existence that is a necessary part of healthy living. We were not born to be the slaves of technology - useful tool though it may be - or modern medicine or the opinion of self-proclaimed experts. Our lives should be one long adventure of experiment and discovery, our curiosity as boundless as a little child's. Health is not the mere absence of symptoms or a dependence on drugs or therapies; it is something that reflects our entire attitude to existence. We have the ability to develop an intuitive responsiveness to our needs that can lead us to greater individual freedom and creativity. Macrobiotics is a simple and practical way to achieve this. Healthy individuals create a healthy society: it is only through the establishment and maintenance of our own health that we can make the peaceful and exciting world that is our common dream.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON MACROBIOTICS CONTACT THE EAST WEST CENTRE OF LONDON, 4 PRIDEAUX RD., LONDON S.W.9



music of the russian bear

ANDREW MAHER

Mention Soviet music to most people who are knowledgeable about the art, and the reply will probably come that little good has come out of Russia in the way of new compositions for many years. Exceptions will be cited. Shostakovich and Prokofiev will be spared the contumely normally heaped on Soviet music, Khachaturian as well, while the more informed, or the name dropper, will

bring up Nikolsi Yakovlevich Miaskovsky. The truth of the matter, I suspect is that with a few exceptions, most critics are woefully ignorant about Soviet music, and for various reasons the public, who in my opinion are the most reliable judges of what is good music (c.f. Hans Sachs in *Die Meistersinger*!! if you please.) never get the chance to become properly acquainted with all but a small portion of modern soviet compositions.

The usual criticism of Soviet Music is that it is both superficial and stale because the musical language employed is rooted deeply in the 19th Century. I am not denying the fact that some Soviet music has been justifiably criticized on the grounds of its superficiality. The old chestnut from the 1930's, Mossolov's *Factory on the Don* is now derided by commentators in and out of the U.S.S.R., and some of the pieces written to meet the formal requirements laid down by Stalin are best left forgotten such as cantatas in praise of re-

afforestation schemes, the construction of hydro-electric projects or certain operas telling of the triumph of members of collective farms over bourgeois, decadent elements who seek to destroy them from within. Since the de-Stalinization days, such music, usually written without much inspiration, has tended to fade out of the repertoire of Soviet orchestras and opera houses. In its place has come some western music, in later years embracing the works of Schoenberg, Berg and Webern, and a considerable amount of new Soviet music.

The new Soviet music, however, has tended to still draw criticism from Western commentators. The grounds are that it is written in outdated idioms, and this in turn is blamed on the official policy of the Communist Party and Union of Soviet Composers which is alleged to suppress modernism, the fact that many Soviet composers prefer to write music that is readily appreciated notwithstanding. Many western composers have been criticized for the same thing, using allegedly outmoded styles. One wonders whether or not the Western composer has as much freedom as is claimed? What is wrong with a composer deciding to use an old idiom if that is the way he feels he can best express himself (or herself)? Why should a composer be prohibited from writing Gregorian Chant in 1981 if that is the best format for self-expression? I feel it can be argued that Western composers are placed under enormous pressure to be innovative, and are discriminated against if they are not.

This Western attitude is in my opinion the biggest hurdle to be overcome in appreciating Soviet music. The tendency has been to evaluate it in Western terms, whereas Soviet culture follows a different course. Even before the Revolution, and long before Stalin, Russian composers tended to acknowledge their debt to the past rather more than their Western colleagues. Thus, while quite significant changes in music were taking place in the west, composers such as Rachmaninov and Glazunov were beginning their careers in Russia and following the stylistic lines laid down by their predecessors. Neither composer was to alter his language much even though music as a whole was being changed by the likes of Stravinsky, Varese and Schoenberg. Innovation seems to be less a feature of the Russian musical outlook, and adherence to existing styles

is not such a grievous sin nor should it be. But, if I were to fault the Russian outlook it would be on the grounds that attempts to innovate are to some extent stifled if it is beyond the scope of its audience. Russian composers in the past have succeeded in carving new paths for music, men such as Mussorgsky and Scriabin, but neither was wholly accepted until much later. Mussorgsky died in poverty rejected by all but a few friends. Scriabin was hallowed as a fine concert pianist. His new innovative works were looked on as an aberration and possibly even the work of a nut. It took a while for public taste to catch up with these composers, indeed their worth was not recognized until after their death.

Put in a nutshell, in Russia they do things differently. Innovation does not become a religious duty as it is for composers in the West, but the Soviet composer who does want to experiment finds more difficulties than his/her western colleague in having his music performed and published. Music also has more topicality in the U.S.S.R., unlike the West where composers are part of a creative elite, writing music for their own sake and, if they so desire, completely ignoring the public (which some modern western composers do!). Indeed, anybody who writes something the public can understand these days is looked on as superficial and suffers the consequences of what can only be described as musical snobbery. Soviet composers set out to compose for their audiences. Occasionally, works have been produced which are superficial, some are practically unlistenable, but then it can't be said that the Soviet system has a monopoly on bad music, the West has been subjected to its fair share from its own composers.

Anyone wanting to hear some modern Soviet music is directed to the various record shops around Canberra, especially Abels at Manuka and Duratone Hi-Fi at Phillip. Both of these dealers have staff who are interested in Classical music, know what they are talking about, and endeavour to keep a substantial range of out-of-the-way items imported from overseas. Recently when my interest in Soviet music was aroused I visited both dealers and found that each had a considerable quantity. The greatest prize was a four record set, issued last year, called *Contemporary Music from The Soviet Union* (Eurodisc-Melodia 87 468 XGK). This set contains a fairly representative selection of modern Soviet composers, although it leaves out certain of the most avant-gard composers like Sergei Slonimsky and Boris Tischenko, whose music is extremely hard to hear in the West.

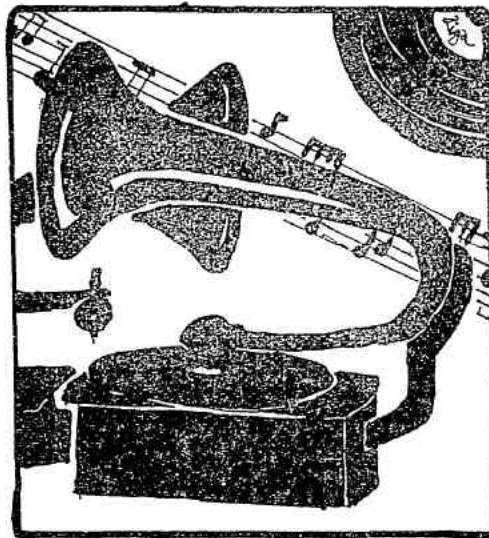


The first disc was issued a few years ago on the H.M.V.-Melodiya label, but has since been deleted. It features the music of Dimitry Kabalevsky, who was born in 1904 and died a year or two ago. The orchestra is the Moscow Philharmonic, conducted by Kabalevsky in two short items, the *Pathetic Overture* and a tone poem called *Spring*. Fuat Mansurov takes over the direction for two of

Kabalevsky's so-called *Youth* concertoes, that for violin, and the 3rd Piano Concerto, which features the soloists Viktor Pikaisen (violin) and Vladimir Felzman (piano). The concertoes date from the last days of Stalin, while the two short pieces were written in the late 1950's for a Soviet film. Kabalevsky never wholly succeeded when he tried to be profound, and these works show him

off at his best being small-scale and tune-ful. The music-with-a-deep-meaning brigade will not like them, but anyone who likes a good tune will find them most enjoyable and quite worth hearing. They would probably be good material for a Boston Pops concert, or an A.B.C. Family concert, but wherever they are played I can see them gaining some public interest, given a chance.

Disc No.2 features the music of Rodion Schedrin (born 1932), to wit his two piano concertoes which the composer himself plays accompanied by the U.S.S.R. Symphony Orchestra conducted by Yevgey Svetlanov in No.1 and the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra under Gennady Rozhdestvensky in No.2.



The first concerto is rather a youthful work, dating as far as I can trace from around 1954. Its first movement suffers from the fact that Schedrin attempts to develop his themes by repetition, a device that was common in Soviet music after the Zhdanov affair of 1947. Now I don't condemn this practise out of hand, after all Ravel's *Bolero* which is deservedly popular uses only one theme repeated over and over again throughout its 15 minutes, but repetition can only work if something other than the theme can be varied. Shchedrin tries to alter the orchestration, or the accompaniment behind a recurrent theme on the piano, but is not wholly successful. The second movement similarly suffers from some thematic monotony, a complaint which applies to a limited extent in the finale. The third movement of this four movement work is a slow movement, modelled seemingly on that in the Shostakovich 5th Symphony, but lacking in the older composer's sense of tragedy. Not a perfect concerto this one, but useful to have to see a young composer trying to find his feet. Shchedrin had certainly found them by the time he came to write his second piano concerto, a much more substantial one than the first. It dates from 1964 when composers were being granted a greater degree of freedom from official interference in their work. It is quite a daring work by most Soviet standards, with an improvisatory 2nd movement, and rather extraordinary finale which makes use of baroque style writing and some (rather gratuitous) jazz rhythms. I think on the strength of this work that Shchedrin has a lot to offer his listeners, especially those who are prepared to hear his music on its own terms and not simply dismiss Shchedrin with a sneer as the "official modernist" of Soviet music.

With Tikhon Khrennikov's music we move even further off the beaten track. He was born in 1913, and has been President of the Soviet Composers Union since 1947. As such, he has been respon-

sible for some scurrilous and occasionally vicious attacks on his colleagues on Stalin's and others behalf, but most are prepared to overlook this because of his excellent work at building up respect for the Union within the Party hierarchy. His second symphony dates from 1940, and as such is one of the Soviet "War" symphonies. Like its companion pieces, such as the Shostakovich 7th, this work is rather aggressively tendentious. While some criticism is possible, I don't intend to make it, but rather suggest that listeners consider it within the context for which it was written and

with a thought to the unique role played by Soviet composers in maintaining the morale of their fellow countrymen in the face of the Nazi invasion. The same composers Cello Concerto of 1964 (dedicated to Mstislav Rostropovich) is by contrast a much more relaxed work with a beautiful *cantilena* second movement. One can easily imagine it suiting Rostropovich's Romantic temperament, however the soloist on this disc, Mikhail Khomitzer is quite equal to the task and shows himself to be a more than adequate representative of a fine string playing tradition. The Moscow Radio Symphony is conducted by Rozhdestvensky in both works.

The final disc was the one I enjoyed the most, and features the least known composer in the set, Georgi Sviridov. A pupil of Shostakovich, Sviridov's style is akin to that of Vaughn-Williams but of course with a Russian flavour. His *Little Symphony* with which the disc opens is a most enchanting piece, as is the Cantata *Homeland Your Forests* which follows. This work features a tenor solo (in this case the excellent Aleksei Maslennikov) and chorus (The R.S.F.S.R.

Choir) and uses a text by the poet Sergei Yessenin. The orchestra in both works is once again the Moscow Radio Symphony under Rozhdestvensky. Side two of the record features some *capella* choruses written in the traditional Russian style. Of all the sides in this set, this was the most satisfying. Sviridov's style might be outmoded by Western notions, but it is still most original and deeply rooted in the folkmusic of the countryside from where Sviridov comes. I hope more of his music will be made available to us.

Overall, the music on this set has been worth hearing. There are some weaker scores but there are others of considerable quality not least the Sviridov items. Whatever the quality, audiences should be able to hear this music to judge it for themselves. This set is a good start, but there is still a lack of opportunity to hear the music of several other Soviet composers such as Miaskovsky, Shaporin, Shebalin, and such contemporary writers as Alfred Schnittke, Boris Tchaikovsky and several others. It is to be hoped that Western governments will not cut off contact with the Soviet state recording company who supply us with the little we do hear. The music that results may be conservative in style to Western critics obsessed with innovation and change, and I suspect too that there is a considerable measure of political influence as well (Western musicians will deny this, their Soviet colleagues will not and will argue further that music has a political and ideological purpose). Whatever the case, it seems to me that we will not be able to appreciate Soviet music properly in the West until we realize that there are other traditions and attitudes to our own. The recording quality in this set is rather variable, not surprising since the records date from the period 1961 to 1974. It is never seriously off putting, and in the case of the Sviridov record it is excellent.

CHRISTIANITY

WOULD THE REAL CHRISTIAN PLEASE STAND UP!!

By Jon McIntyre

Christianity necessitates the belief in Christ and the adoption of a Christian philosophy. These two factors are, by no means mutually exclusive and it can be seen that true belief in Christ will automatically involve accepting and trying to embody Christ's ideals in a workable and constructive fashion. By the same token an individual can adopt Christian ideals without believing in Christ (and may be a "better" person). However as mentioned, one cannot purport to believe in Christ and not adopt a Christian philosophy.

It cannot be stressed too much, that Christianity is an ideal. It is a goal to strive for and the degree to which this goal is achieved depends entirely on the level to which an individual or group has emulated the Christian philosophy. To say that one is a Christian is not strictly correct but what should be said is, "I strive to be a Christian", but as society dictates that we all must label ourselves it is convenient to say, "I am a Christian". Who knows, perhaps that person is no more Christian than an atheist. After all I could easily label myself a marxist-feminist but that would no more qualify me as a marxist-feminist than a fascist-chauvinist. A belief in anything is only realized by the way in which that belief affects the lifestyle and actions of the believer. A nominal belief is a passing whim, it may be uttered in words but rejected without a flinch in a situation of pressure.

An important point to make here is that all people are fallible. This may appear to be a facetious comment, however, it appears that many Christian antagonists feel that by trying to adopt a Christian lifestyle, one has automatically put themselves in a category of all virtuous puritanism. In doing so all an opponent of Christianity needs to do is to demonstrate that this individual is fallible therefore "Christianity is fallacious and hollow", end of argument. I find myself in a quandary when trying to follow this line of argument to any sort of non-spurious conclusion. Christianity is, in itself pure and perfect. The way in which men and women change, violate and sometimes destroy this belief under the guise of "spreading the word", may not entirely be seen as desirable, to say the least.

For example, although Cardinal Goma was a fanatical anti-Marxist and played a great part in the Roman

Catholic support of the Francoist fascist in the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), does this mean that Christianity is evil, or even undesirable? Individuals can answer that question honestly for themselves. One can exhume many examples of individuals committing gross injustices against others under the name of Christianity, however I shall leave this to the staunch adversaries of Christianity who will pursue the matter with zealous enthusiasm, I'm sure. I have no intention of exonerating these people or their actions. Suffice to say that they were obviously not acting in accordance with Christian philosophy and certainly did not represent Christian ideals. These sorts of injustices occur even now but it is men and women that manipulate things for their own gain, not Christianity.

I have no desire to become embroiled in a mud slinging match with any Christian opponents or Christian supporters for that matter, but I do wish to present an alternative outlook on Christianity which has been totally ignored by those who have become so embittered and blinded by hate because of unpleasant personal experiences. It appears that most people, whether Christian or not,

deem the Christian philosophy to be desirable. In fact our whole society and our laws revolve around the Christian ethic. Even the words, "that was a Christian thing to do" have a real positive meaning. One does not refer to the burning of heretics at the stake as a "Christian act" although it was done by persons calling themselves Christians.

A part of Christianity also involves the world of the Church hierarchy, dogmatism and codes etc. where many problems do arise. It is here that arguments and conflicts relating to Christianity are developed. The doctrines and observances (too numerous to mention here), are perhaps the main issues of contention in regards to all people, not just anti-Christians. Certainly the more topical issues include abortion and the pill however there are multitudes of other issues on which the church must take a stand. Perhaps of less importance are such things as, dress codes and certain standards of moral behaviour however, these things are interesting in their own right. The various codes and rules of the church doctrines were written for particular reasons at particular times. As with society in general, many of these laws

became outmoded and need to be changed. The church does change, (be it ever so slowly), as it must, in order that the Christian belief which is unchanged by time, is not hampered or restricted because of man made obstacles. One must always hold in one's mind the ideals that are being striven for when interpreting church recommendations and doctrines.

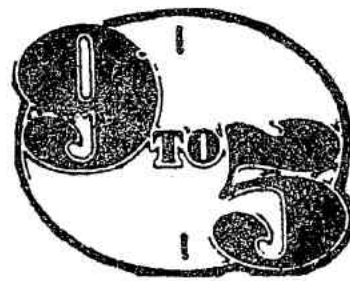
Some people seem to feel that being a Christian is a cop-out, putting the responsibility for your actions on someone else, but it is one of the most difficult onerous lifestyles one can choose to adopt. With all its difficulties it is often very rewarding. It is quite saddening to see people taking such a negative attitude towards Christianity when they really seem to be missing the point of it all. Do you honestly believe Christians are out to murder, rape, pillage or they are just a commie plot to overthrow Western society. Don't forget Poland. More seriously though, knowing what Christianity is and being a Christian is not a cause effect relationship and it's only when this is realized that something constructive can be gotten underway.

R. COBB



"WILL THE REAL JESUS CHRIST PLEASE ASCEND..."

FILM REVIEW



NINE TO FIVE: directed by Colin Higgins.

When one realizes how little attention has been paid to feminist themes by filmmakers, one is led to wonder why Colin Higgins, who directed as well as collaborated on the screenplay of 'Nine to Five' decided to treat such a theme humorously. For that is his intention, though the resulting film is a rudderless vessel drifting through a sea of indifference.

Obvious care and attention has been paid to reproduce faithfully the working conditions of women employed by a large, impersonal organisation. The cooperation of feminists with the production crew is echoed in the detail and scope of problems associated with office work. Such problems are: nonpromotion of longtime employees like Violet (Lily Tomlin) and untounded rumours circulated by the boss about his fictitious affair with his secretary Doralee (Dolly Parton) as well as rudeness

to women generally by the same man (Dabney Coleman), who is inept, career-minded and obnoxious.

The ordeal which a new office worker named Judy (Jane Fonda) faces is rather amusing, but the plot becomes somewhat convoluted in its efforts to induce the silent audience to chuckle. Comedy if handled properly is an excellent vehicle to transport serious messages, but it also involves a number of components — such as timing — in order to be successful. Witty dialogue, clever throwaway one-liners, even broad farce can amuse audiences. However, they will remain silent when a plot makes no attempt to employ these devices and winds itself up to reach its predictable ending.

The women gain reasonable improvements in working conditions, with the added bonus of seeing their boss — who is credited with all the changes — sent off to Brazil by the benign, autocratic chairman of the board, played by a stalwart of Hollywood, Sterling Hayden. The casting otherwise is slightly askew with Jane Fonda in a forgettable role.

The general air of the film results in giving audiences no chance to release their empathy and thereby losing the opportunity to parody some basic problems that are very real to a large number of women.

—STEFAN LIPOVICH

GOD AND EVIL

"If God exists, why is there so much evil?" It's an old question. As a Christian, I will do my best to answer that question.

Let's get one thing clear first of all. In the course of this essay, I intend to refer to God as "She". In fact, God is far beyond the narrow confines of any sex, male or female. God is often called "He" to symbolise God's power and strength. Yet God may also be called "She" to symbolise Her infinite love and kindness. Males have no monopoly on God. Sexism is anti-Christian.

Nature of Evil

Evil, or badness, is not something positive in itself. It is rather a *lack* of some perfection or quality which a thing *ought* to have, but does not have. If a machine breaks down we call it bad because it *fails* to operate properly — it is lacking in a proper harmony of its parts. If a man murders someone, we call the man bad because he is lacking in a quality all people should have — i.e. a true appreciation of the rights of other human beings.

Of course, there is often a very *positive* reason why a thing is bad, or evil. A bad machine may have an obstruction in it. A bad man may be obsessed with self-love. Yet we do not call these positive things bad in themselves. The real core of badness in itself is that it means that a thing lacks some perfection that it should have. Evil *in itself* is not something *positive*, created by God. It is something *negative* (i.e. a lack), *permitted* by God. But why?

Death and Pain

The death of animals should not worry us. Suppose there is a lion who can never die. The lion can eat, sleep, mate and stroll around for all eternity. I think you'll agree that the lion will eventually get *bored* with its existence. It will not want to live forever, doing the same old things over and over again. It would be cruel if God made all animals to live forever. We should be glad that animals eventually die.

True, some animals die before their prime. But this does not prove that God is callous in letting them die. No-one has shown that animals have an actual right to live. Atheists eat steak every day without feeling qualms of conscience! It seems that God has designed the animal realm on evolutionary lines — animals compete and the fittest live. We may feel sorry for the ones that die, but the fact is that we personify animals too much. A dying animal does not resent its death as unjust, for the simple reason that since the animal is irrational, it has no idea of justice.

What really troubles the atheist, though, is not death in animals, but rather, the *pain* felt by animals. Yet we should remember that pain sometimes is beneficial. If an animal felt no pain on encountering fire, it would not avoid it. Thus the fire would burn up the animal, and all the time it would feel no inclination to run away. Thus far fewer animals would exist. Pain benefits animals because it urges them to save their lives and run away from harm.

This is true enough, but why is it that some animal pain has no benefit? Suppose an animal really *is* dying at last. It often feels pain. This pain will do it no good, as it will never live to see another day anyway. Why doesn't God intervene? Why doesn't She interfere with the laws of nature so that the animal's nerves do not register pain? The answer is that if God intervened all the time to de-activate the nerves of dying animals, She would have to work miracles galore. When we consider that animals are limited, irrational creatures who can

never know or love God, and who are designed to die anyway, the question arises — is it worthwhile to work a whole lot of miracles for these creatures? It seems illogical to me. We must either have animals who feel pain, even in their dying moments, or no animals at all. And after all, animals experience a lot of pleasure too. The picture isn't all black.

For similar reasons, God does allow physical suffering in humans too. Let us remember that all of us prefer life to death. This shows that we must believe that the pleasure in human life outweighs the pain. Human physical pain is usually of biological value in prolonging life, but, as in the case of the animals, some pain is of *no* value. This does not make God unjust, though, as I will show in discussing human death, below.

Human Wickedness

Even if there is some point in death and pain, why does God allow wickedness? Why does God allow men to be murderous, wicked and cruel? Why does God allow wars?

Let me illustrate a case which answers the problem. During World War II, there were many prisoners at Auschwitz concentration camp. One of them, Father Maximilian Kolbe, was repeatedly beaten up by the Nazi guards because he was a priest. Meanwhile, a prisoner managed to escape from Auschwitz. The Nazi guards were furious. They decided to take revenge on those prisoners still remaining at Auschwitz. So they selected ten men among the prisoners, and they condemned these ten men to die of starvation and thirst. To die of starvation is bad enough, but to die of thirst as well is really frightful. One of the ten men lamented that he'd never again see his family. Father Kilbe (who was not one of the ten condemned men) stood by watching. Suddenly he stepped forward and said to the Nazi guard, "I'd like to die in place of one of the men you have condemned to death". The Nazi guard was stunned! Nevertheless, he agreed to let Father Kolbe die in place of the man who had wanted to see his family. So Father Kolbe died, slowly and painfully. During his last days of life, he brought many prisoners to peace, happiness and love of God. When one thinks of the great love shown by this priest, all the horrors of Auschwitz, all the murderous hate and wickedness of the Nazis, pales in comparison. Yet unless the Nazis had been wicked enough to build Auschwitz camp, this act of charity which Father Kolbe performed, would never have happened. Many of the greatest deeds performed by men are performed in the face of enormous wickedness by others.

And here is part of the answer to the problem of wickedness. A world with wickedness, and great love to conquer it, is preferable to a world without wickedness and without great love of Father Kolbe's kind. God tends to allow wickedness because without it, many good acts would never occur. Needless to say, wickedness, according to a Christian view, must eventually be overcome, otherwise it would be useless to combat it.

More Problems

All this is interesting enough, the atheist may object, but what about the cases where wickedness does *not* bring out the good in someone? What of the cruelties which are never conquered with acts of great kindness? Human wickedness is often so absurd and frustrating. Why does God allow *this* wickedness to go on? Why doesn't She intervene?

And what about human death? Does it seem fair that

a prisoner in Latin America should be beaten up and killed? Does it seem fair that a child of five be carried off by a fatal plague or disease? One can understand why animals die and suffer. But people are precious. It seems absurd that they should die like flies and suffer so much.

Absurdity Leads to Goodness

If we take only a short-term view, the atheist's problem seems insoluble. On a longer view, however, there is the glimmer of an answer.

Suppose a man dies, unwanted, lonely and rejected, on the streets. Suppose there are many others like him, who are also dying. Obviously the deaths of these people does not spark off any act of charity towards these people. However, it may spark off an act of charity towards other people. That is, someone else may come along, decades later, and help other people on those same streets. This person who is offering help may be driven to do so precisely because he/she is haunted by the thought of people who previously died on the streets, without anyone to care for them. I'm sure that when Mother Teresa came to help people on the streets of Calcutta, one motive that pushed her forward would have been the awful thought of other people who died before any help reached them. The very absurdity of the suffering of these people, the very injustice of it all, may have motivated Mother Teresa's kindness towards people of later generations. This shows that seemingly absurd suffering and death may spark off acts of kindness to other suffering people. If suffering were not so absurd, we would not be so resolute in our acts of kindness. The world would be insipid — full of healthy but more selfish people.

Similarly, if there were not times when wickedness never sparks off love, we would be less loving on other occasions. It is precisely the dread of those absurd situations where evil triumphs, which makes us all the more determined to be loving whenever we can.

God, then, permits "absurd" suffering, death and wickedness, for the sake of a greater long-term good.

Life After Death

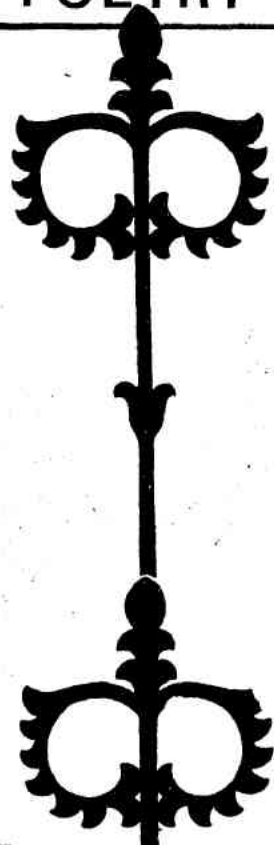
This is all very well, but still not much use. The absurd suffering of a man dying on the streets, or being beaten up by oppressors, may make us determined to be more loving to other people decades later. But what about the man who is dying or being beaten up? When does *he* get his rights? How can God allow such injustice?

The answer is that for human beings death is not the end. After death, we can find happiness. God rewards good people or suffering people with eternal, unbounded happiness. This may seem like begging the question, to speak of life after death. However, I have proven in a previous article in "Woroni" that God exists. It is a fact, also, that people suffer unjustly. The only solution is to say that there must be life after death. God, in allowing someone to suffer for the sake of a greater long-term good, is perfectly just if She grants the suffering person eternal bliss as compensation.

However, according to Christian teaching, we must love our neighbour. The promise of Heaven gives us no excuse to neglect the poor. For unless we help them, we shall not attain eternal bliss for ourselves. Heaven is not for lazy fat-cats. Having shown that evil in the world does *not* disprove God's existence, let me challenge the atheist by saying to him: "Instead of grumbling about evil, why don't you do something about it?"

by Vincent Torley

POETRY



TELEPHONE

Who speaks to me through the telephone?
The ghost of mother, the ghost of father,
For it is not given to mortal flesh
To dance five hundred miles in an instant—
Except by the grace of Bell,
Who transforms solid flesh into nimble ghosts,
Which dance five hundred miles along a wire,
Bringing moist words — almost moist lips —
Across an impossible stretch of land.

REASON

Reason dressed in green
Danced in the forest,
But soon was driven out,
For the creepers were against him,
And the leaves were against him,
And the flowers tensed their muscles
To drive him out.

R.E. McArthur.

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WAITING

There are dead men waiting in our rooms.
I have seen them standing by the doors,
or felt them stare out of the wall. One thing
remains obscure: are these colonial ghosts,
the victims of a leisurely oppression?
or do they come from a future big with war
and deaths which we can hardly understand?

Everyboncle

CANTO

We drank Rose at the German Club,
Wie roter Tau auf den Boden des
Schwarzwaldes von Gottes Hand
gefallen lassen.
God stood aside from us,
Like the sadness in the eye of
Watteau's clown,
As he half stands aside from
life.
Oh, what plangency!

— R.E. McArthur



Would CHRISTINE FERNON, author of "Animal Experiments in Australia" please contact the WORONI Office as soon as possible.

INDEPENDENT WOMENS MOVEMENT

Dear Editors,

Thanks, Bill Spence, for showing us poor misguided feminists where the struggle is really at (Woroni, 33, 6, p.34). Apparently sexism has nothing to do with male oppression of women after all, but is just another manifestation of the workings of the capitalist state.

I don't wish to wrangle with you over your interpretation of the particular events of 25th April. It hardly seems worth it. It would have been interesting to see how many members of the proletariat actually would have turned out at an antiwar, antinationalist demonstration, but as it is I can only be relieved that Bill Spence was not there waving his banners, confusing the feminist issue which was at stake, and destroying our chances of making a coherent and united statement to the public.

You maintain the fight against sexism is part of the general battle to bring down capitalism, and should unite its interests with the (virtuously non-sexist?) working class. Your analysis is superficial and naive. Women have made their point quite clearly - a feminist analysis is independent of a socialist critique of society. It transcends class; it transcends social structures. If sexism is just another example of ruling class

oppression of the "ordinary people" under capitalism, then how do you account for the continued subjection of women by men in non-capitalist societies? It is a trite point to make, but an obvious one worth confronting before you glibly sprout panaceas for the women of the world.

It is clear you are not happy with any form of feminism at all, "socialist" or otherwise. I note the unease with which you employ feminist language - you dissociate yourself entirely from any feminist perspective by putting its terms in quotation marks. You refer to the separatist argument concerning war and "male violence", the implication being that the separatists may believe in such a thing as male violence, but Bill Spence sure doesn't.

So why all this tokenist tripe about "no-one's denying that sexism must be smashed" and "no-one's denying that rape is a brutal act of sex oppression"? Your whole argument sets out to deny precisely this by denying the validity of an independent feminist analysis. For you, sexism is a mere side-issue to the grander aspirations of the International Socialists. For me, I don't want to see the feminist movement subordinated to the authoritarian chauvinism of the Trotsyists. Without a women's movement which stands strong and separate from the male dominated Left, it's certain that all it is possible to achieve is that sexist pseudo-socialism of which you wrote.

Gillian Higginson
Robyn Ferrell

EDUCATION COLLECTIVE

Dear Editors,

In the last week of this semester, the S.A. Education Collective will be distributing "Unit Evaluation Questionnaires" to all first semester Law units.

Uncontroversial in itself: we are keeping our promise made in the 1980 Counter Course Handbook to extend student evaluation of courses to as many units, and as many faculties, as is possible. Response from Science, Arts and Economics faculties has generally been good. Many lecturers have been happy to distribute our questionnaires themselves, and have encouraged student participation. They have recognised that student participation is an integral part of the education process, a participation that the collective is committed to.

The Law School Action Group and the Law Society have supported our latest move to assess the strengths and weaknesses of various Law units. This will help 1982 students in their selection of units and their attending particular lecturers' classes. It is an important source of information denied to us in the official handbooks and handouts.

Uncontroversial in itself: but now the Law Faculty has declared its disapproval of the SA Education Collective's survey. Members of the Law School Action Group had been told it was "inappropriate" to law students since it asked in one question for the student to

comment on the use of aids such as duplicated notes, TV, films, overhead projections, availability of taped lectures. In particular overhead projections. (The Law Faculty refuses to tape lectures, causing part-timers great difficulty, but that is another unresolved issue). Anyway, that is what the Law School Action Group was told. The President of the Law Society was later told that a real objection to the survey was, in fact, an earlier part of the question:

6. How would you grade your lecturer [High Distinction (HD), Distinction (D), Credit (C), Pass (P), Fail (N) or (if you find such a grading system arbitrary and meaningless), Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory].?

This was the crunch. Lecturers, anxious not to be graded by students, have refused to co-operate with this survey. Lecturers careers have suffered in the past, they have said, and such grading as "HD" etc., are arbitrary and meaningless.

At least the SA Education Collective offers an alternative: Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory. Perhaps the Law Faculty might offer such an alternative too. The careers of students have been made extremely unpleasant by the nastier side of the pursuit of excellence (misguidedly believed by some to mean a string of HDs). It is a curious anxiety on the part of the Law Faculty to object to grading when they accept this system of grading.

This is our case: An Alternative Law Handbook or Counter Course Handbook that relies on idiosyncratic articles to assess units is likely to be narrower than the results of a comprehensive survey of student opinion. Look at the Counter Course Handbook: the Law Faculty has only just discovered it!

ANU Education Collective.

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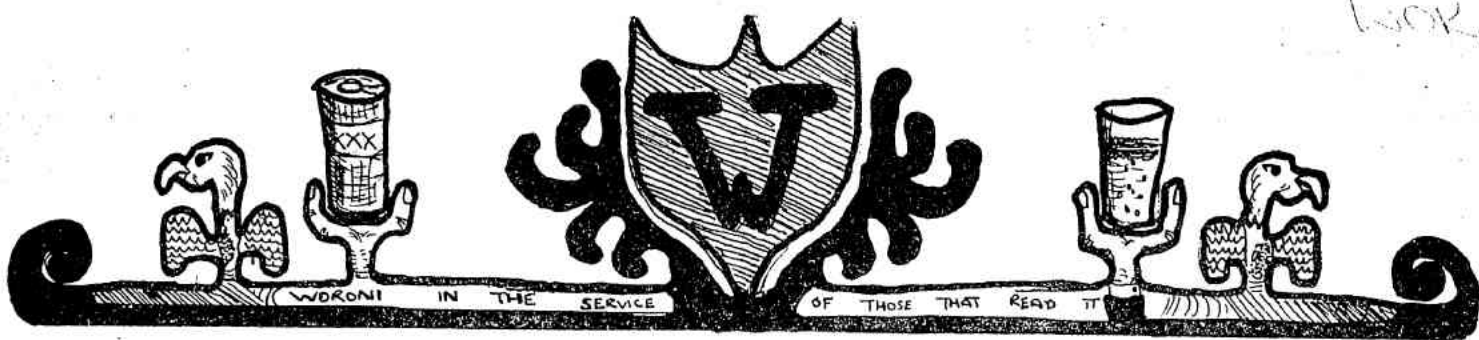


NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

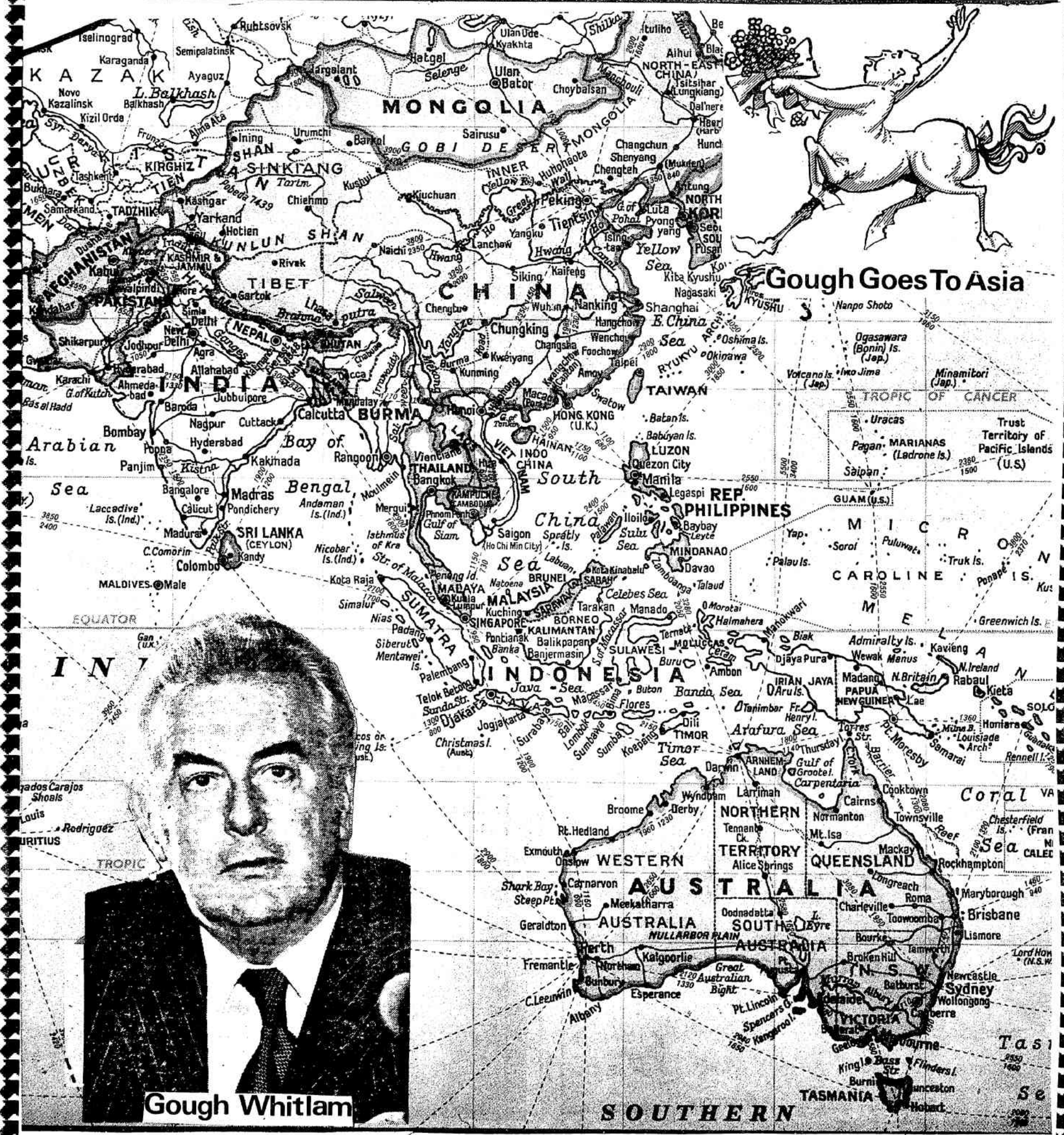
Due to the large number of contributions we are receiving the following policies have been decided upon.

1. all letters must be of less than 200 words, the author's name must be legibly signed, if the author desires to have a letter printed either anonymously or under a pseudonym, this must be clearly indicated.
2. the editors reserve the right not to publish articles over 1,800 words. Consultation with the editors is necessary for articles exceeding this length.

The Editors.



WORONI



Gough Goes To Asia



Gough Whitlam